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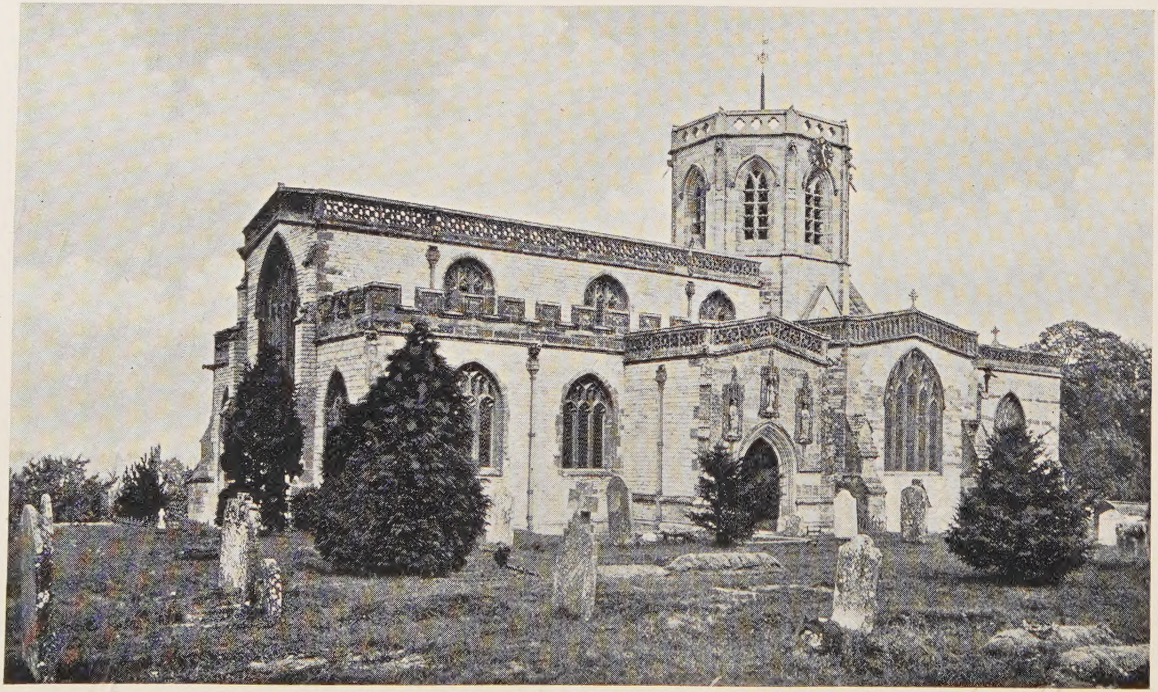

NORTH CURRY CHURCH, EXTERIOR.

NORTH CURRY:

ANCIENT MANOR AND HUNDRED

Notes on the history of the three parishes:
North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, West Hatch,
contained therein.

BY

HUGH P. OLIVEY

M.R.C.S

Taunton

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TO

HIS MANY FRIENDS

IN NORTH CURRY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

THIS HUMBLE ATTEMPT TO COMPILE AND ELUCIDATE

SOME MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST

IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

BY THE AUTHOR.

Preface.

THERE are few parishes in England that will not yield many matters of archæological and general historical interest when their records and archives are searched; and this district is no exception to the rule. With that conviction I venture to place this volume before the public. I should like to have seen the subject taken up by abler hands, but I feel that I have some excuse, having been resident in North Curry for over forty years; and not being unobservant, and having always noted any matters which might be of interest, I now present this compilation to my many friends and the public, fully aware of its shortcomings and defects. I do not pretend to pose as a learned literary authority or as a skilled archæologist. The only credit I claim is a certain amount of industry and research in collecting information from all sources within my reach, and in having freely taken advantage of others' work. I have accumulated a vast amount of material, which I have endeavoured to state as concisely and clearly as possible. Copious extracts are given from the parish books. The overseers' accounts throw a light on the secular history of a parish just as light is thrown on the religious history by the churchwardens' accounts. The duties of the various parish officers have so much changed from

time to time, that in the last section I have endeavoured to trace those various duties and the numerous acts of parliament regulating them. In this section will also be found many quotations from the work of Toulmin Smith, on *The Parish: its officers and their duties.* The Domesday references are chiefly extracts from Mr. Eyton's book on *Domesday Studies.* Collinson, the great Somerset historian, has been quoted fully. The history of the manor of North Curry is particularly shown in the numerous references to it contained in *The Manuscripts of Wells Cathedral,* issued by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, and edited by the Rev. J. A. Bennett. All matters relating to the manor contained therein are fully transcribed. Many historical and other notes will be found in explanation of the numerous entries in the parish books, on occasions of national prayer and humiliation, as well as rejoicings for peace and other occasions for thankfulness. These should appeal to us with special force at the present time, now we are mourning over the grave of our beloved queen, and wishing God speed to our new king; and help us to realize how our forefathers were moved by passing events; and the war in South Africa will teach us what they endured and what their struggles were. It has been truly said: "The history of a nation is told to a large extent in the records of parishes."

I trust my friends will not be too critical, and that they will find herein many points of interest, which may not before have been brought to their notice. The work has been of the greatest interest to me, and much of it has been compiled in the course of a busy

life, leisure now giving me the opportunity to complete it.

It it proves half as pleasurable to the reader, and more particularly to my North Curry friends, I shall be amply rewarded.

In conclusion, I have to thank many friends for hints and suggestions ; also Mr. E. Sprankling for his carefully executed sketches for the illustrations ; Mr. T. B. Othen for the ground plans of the church and churchyard ; and the committee of the Somerset Archæological Society for the loan of photographic blocks.

H. P. O.

Mylor, 1901.

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Introductory.

Topographical Description.

THE general features of the district herein proposed to be dealt with being so typical of a large portion of the county of Somerset, and as much of its history has reference to its position, it will be well to make a few observations on the leading characteristics of the county.

Somersetshire is a maritime county, bounded on the north-west entirely by the Bristol Channel. The sea coast is extremely irregular; in some parts, as from Porlock Bay to Minehead, and from Old Cleeve to Watchet, the cliffs are high and rocky. The coast gradually distends into Bridgwater Bay, where at Steart Point the Parret emerges into the Channel. The coast from this part northward is flat, and composed of vast sand-banks repelling the inundation of the sea, which in ancient times washed over the shoals and flowed into the county for a very considerable distance, covering with its waters that vast territory now called Brent Marsh, and the moors as far as Glastonbury and Somerton. The sea, after its general retirement, paid frequent visits to these parts, and it was found necessary to the security of the country to establish Commissioners of Sewers, who should ex-

amine and inspect the sea banks, ditches, gutters and sewers connected with the sea, and order the requisite cleansings and reparation. The first commission upon record occurs A.D. 1304, 32 Edward I, when Robert de Clare, Gilbert de Bere, and John Gereberd were appointed inspectors. After this, similar commissions were issued to the possessors of manors and lordships bordering on these parts in the reigns of Edward II and III, and Richard II, and the like offices have in some measure extended to this day. The rivers are numerous and greatly influence the main features of the county, namely, its great area of moor and low land, which, but for the skill of man, would be a barren waste as in the earlier periods of its history, instead of the fertile plains which now prevail. It is with the Parret and the Tone that we are principally concerned in this district.

The subdivision of the county is into hundreds and parishes. This division took place at a very early date, and was in use long before the Domesday survey. North Curry gives the name to the hundred of North Curry, which now comprises the parishes of North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, West Hatch, Thornfalcon, and Thurlbeer; but the particular description in Domesday of the ancient hundred only comprises the three first parishes named, which also form the *Manor*. Thornfalcon and Thurlbeer are more modern additions. This is an exception to the usual rule, as generally the same arrangements hold good, as to the boundaries of parish, hundred, and county, as existed more than eight hundred years ago.

NOTES ON NORTH CURRY

Section I.

Domesday references. Ancient mode of Taxation: the King's tenth, and document relating to defalcations in collecting the same in the North Curry Hundred, 25 Edw. I. Ancient Custom of Reeve's Feast. Chantries.

WHEN William, Duke of Normandy, ascended the British throne as William the Conqueror, and took possession of all the various estates of England, those of this county, exclusive of those he chose to reserve for his own private use, and which had been the royal demesnes of Edward the Confessor (A.D. 1042—1066), he distributed to religious foundations, and to those persons who had adventured their fortunes and their lives in his rash but successful expedition. The feudal system was then introduced by the Normans, and lands which before were possessed by Thanes and Vassals of the Saxon court, were now condensed into large baronies, each comprising a number of estates held under their respective lords, as they themselves held under the crown by military service.

The Rev. R. W. Eyton, in his preface to his book, *Domesday Studies*, says: "Domesday thus examined becomes a science more and more exact. The utilitarianism or the indifferentism of the age will lead many to ignore such a science. These are they who will also despise history in any form"; also, "Even

though a science, Domesday may become popular. There is hardly a man or a youth of English birth, or with an English soul, who would not care to know something of the name and state, eight centuries ago, of the place wherein he was born and wherein he lives—something, too, of the relative conditions of the class most parallel with that to which he himself happens to belong—to identify this or that locality with some place named in Domesday."

The Domesday Book contains the history of Somerset of the eleventh century. What are called the "Gheld Inquest," and "Domesday Book," are the earliest records we have of land tenure. The Gheld Inquest was made by William the Conqueror about the year 1084, for the purpose of levying a tax as a war tax of six shillings on every hide of land. This Inquest, which was made two years previous to Domesday, gives the names of the hundreds and parishes into which each county is divided; and the book contains a survey of all the land in England, as the book from which judgment was to be given as to the tenure, value, and services therein contained. Another record, the "Domesday Book," was compiled 1085-6. Unlike the Gheld Inquest, this gives the names of all manors, and gives the names of all tenants in capite (holding in chief), and of their subtenants. The original notes of King William's commissioners were not written on any manner of "book," but on rolls or rotulets. No fragment of these original rolls is known to exist.

We have two editions or copies of them, for Somerset, called the Exon Domesday and the Exchequer Domesday. These two very nearly agree, the chief difference being in names, the Exon clerk preferring his favourite Latin, the Exchequer clerk his Norman French. For instance, the Exon styles the abbot of Battle, "Abbas de Prælio"; the Exchequer, "Abbas de la Bataile." Also between a Latin and a Saxon word, the abbot of Athelney is called by the Exon, "Abbas de Aliennia," the Exchequer, "Abbas de Adelingi." In like manner, names of persons have been changed, "de Bello-Campo" into "Beau-champ."

The time taken in compiling this great survey, which resulted in Domesday Book, was eight months, and three of these were winter months. No such miracle of clerkly and executive capacity has been worked in England since.

The measurement is given by the term "hide," being a tenement or occupation of *uncertain* area, but originally calculated to bear a *certain* taxation. In Somerset the hide was about 249⅔ acres: the more usual measurement was 240 acres. With regard to Somerset, this hidation did not cover more than five-sixths of the area. There were large tracts (more than one-sixth of the county) never hidated, never measured in any form by thought or phraseology of man. And this materially affected the neighbourhood of North Curry, as will appear hereafter. The moors pervaded and characterized the county of Somerset: many of them, though now under the plough, are still known as moors in local parlance. In the eleventh century they were as a rule utterly waste and profitless; in some districts they were well nigh inaccessible, irreclaimable, and absolutely worthless; in others avoided rather than occupied by man. In Domesday Book these moors were not valued: 170,000 acres of such existed in Somerset. The Domesday surveyors took no more note of these wildernesses than of barren crags or sterile sands of the foreshore. These moors paid nothing in the way of taxation.

It is remarkable that very little change has taken place in boundaries since that day. Except in very rare instances, the county is the same, the hundred is the same, the parish is the same. But for the reason above stated, the Domesday acreage and the modern acreage of Somerset, and of this district, are very different things. The county which composed the Somerset of the eleventh century measures by modern ascertainment 1,049,080 statute acres, but the Domesday measurement was only 871,110 statute acres: that is, it measures 177,970 acres more than was registered in Domesday computations. So with regard to the hundred of North

Curry: it measures 11,027 acres by modern measure; the Domesday measure was only twenty hides, being 7,832 acres, that is, it is now 3,195 acres more than were measured in Domesday. This consists of the parishes of North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, and West Hatch. It has been said that the average hide was in Somerset 250 acres nearly, but for the reasons given it will be found[1] that the North Curry Domesday area correlative with the hide was $391\frac{3}{5}$ acres, and the modern area correlative with the Domesday hide was $551\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

The next division to the hide was the virgate, usually co-ordinating with sixty statute acres; then the ferndel or fertine, a fourth part of a virgate, usually fifteen acres statute or three gheld acres, and the gheld acre co-ordinating with five statute acres. These terms will be frequently met with hereafter. Another term was the *Carucate*, the "Terra Unius Carucæ" of the Exchequer Domesday, the "Terra quam potest arare una caruca" of the Exon Domesday, or plough-land; and, like the hide, this was of variable extent. The normal capacity of the plough-gang, or one team land, was half the hide, or 120 acres. This manor is returned as having forty carucæ.[2] There were eight oxen (boves) in one caruca (team). The fractional part of land was also described by the number of oxen proper to its culture; thus, the "terra ad dimidiam carucam," or half plough-gang of sixty acres, might stand in Domesday as "terra quatuor bovinum" (four oxen); and the quarter plough land of thirty acres might, and often does, stand as "terra duorum bovinum" (two oxen).

Vineyards are mentioned as having existed in Somerset, and among a few others named is, "In the manor of North Curry (late earl Harold's) king William had a large vineyard." It measured seven statute acres. No value is mentioned. The annual *value* of the Somerset hide was £1 3*s.* $10\frac{1}{4}$*d.*, and the annual value of the Domesday acre was 1·14577, or a little

1. See Appendix, Table I.
2. See Appendix, Table No. I.

over 1*d.* The annual value of the North Curry hide was £1 8*s.* 1⅘*d.*, or 0·8626 per Domesday acre, or a little under 1*d.* per acre.

There are some instances in Domesday of rent having been paid in kind. In one case the rent was ten fat hogs and 100 cheeses: these were in place of a pecuniary value of £18. The ten fat hogs amounted to 10*s.*, or 1*s.* each. The 100 cheeses were worth £17 10*s.*, or 3*s.* 6*d.* each, and are assumed to be of the largest size. The value of the latter article has multiplied less in eight centuries than any other agrarian product with which we are acquainted.

As illustrating other instances of value, I quote from Eyton's *Wells Cathedral:*

"In the manor of Combe are,
"40 oxen of the value of 5*s.* each.
"200 sheep (oves et multonias) at 12*d.* each.
"At Wynsham: 16 oxen at 3*s.* 6*d.*
" 132 sheep at 5*d.*
" 53 lambs at 2¼*d.*
" 6 sows, 1 boar at 4*d.*"

We first note in Somerset Domesday twelve manors called "Terra Regis—Vetus Dominicum Coronæ," of ancient demesne of the crown, held by king Edward at his death, A.D. 1066, and deemed to be inherent in the crown in the 20th year of king William, A.D. 1086. Amongst these is named "Churi" (now Curry Rivel). This was never called the hundred of Churi, but always the hundred of Abdick. The reason why the *king's* manor of Curry did not give its name to its hundred was perhaps to avoid confusion. The earl of Somerset (Harold) held a manor of Curry which did give its name to a hundred. The *manor* and *hundred* are *both* called Nort Chori.[1] Both manor and hundred still exist under the same name, viz., North Curry. This manor and hundred appear under the heading of the *Comital manors* of Somerset, of which there were fifteen as "held by king William as *comes* (earl) by escheat of Harold, earl of Somerset, and his kindred." In other words, William the Conqueror

1. See Appendix, Table No. II.

took possession of all the land belonging to the former owners.

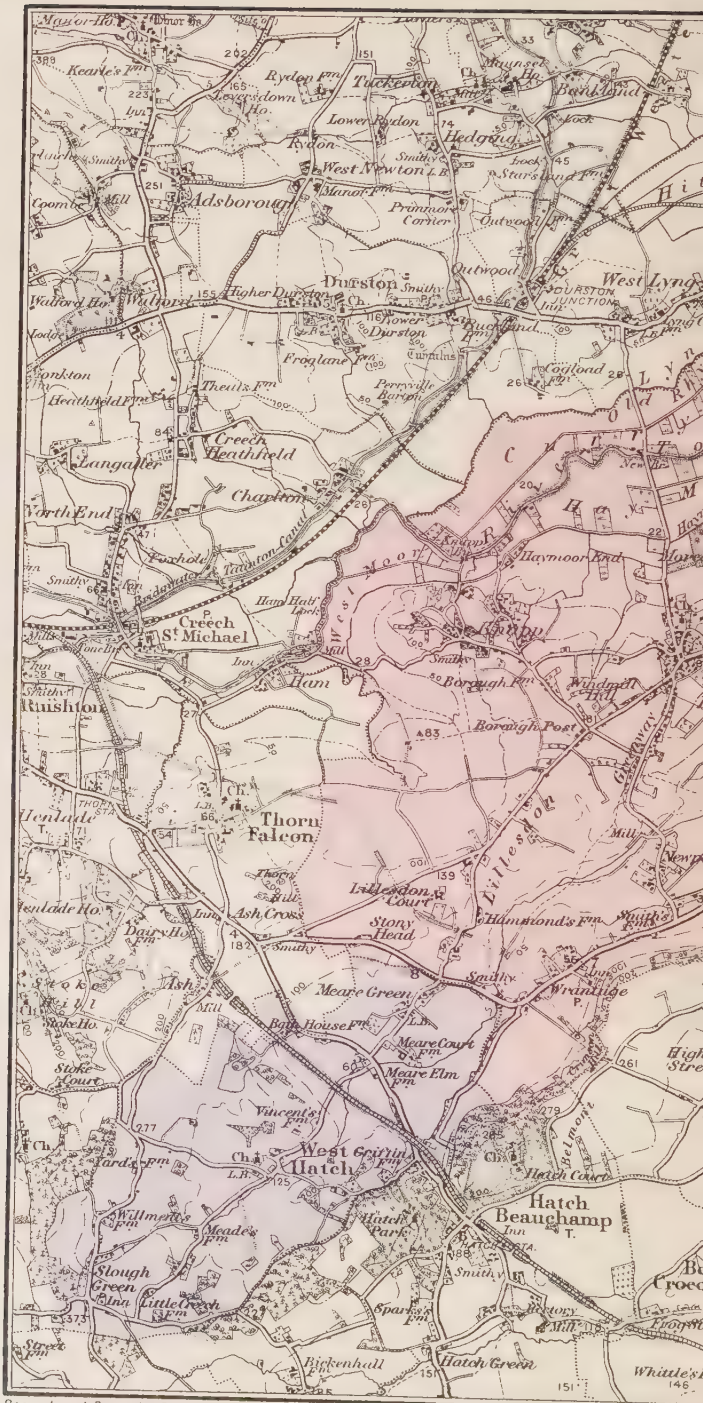
In the comital manors is a gross Domesday area of 74,353 acres: 47,640 were arable, 5,412 woods, 936 meadow, 20,365 pasture, with a labouring population of 963 males. Here was one labourer to every $77\frac{1}{5}$ acres of registered land, one to every 50 acres of arable land.

The hundred of North Curry had an area of 7,825 acres: of these were arable 4,800 acres, woods 62 acres, meadow 78 acres, pastures 2,885 acres, with a labouring population of 195 males. Here was one labouring man to $40\frac{1}{8}$ acres of registered land, one to every $27\frac{3}{5}$ acres of arable land. The total area of land in Somerset was 871,110 acres, with an adult male population of 13,307, thus giving one labouring man to $65\frac{1}{2}$ acres of registered land.

Some interesting deductions may be made by the comparison of figures relating to different portions of the county, and to different counties; for instance, Mr. Eyton shows, in comparing Somerset royal demesne lands with those of Dorset, that for its arable land Somerset had but one labourer when Dorset had two: and for its land in actual tillage the proportion was exactly the same; showing what appears to be the case to the present day, that the Somerset farmer devoted more of his available strength to his grass and pasture than he did to his plough tillage, and that the Dorset farmer reversed the policy.

The original text of the Domesday record, relating to the North Curry hundred, is thus given by Collinson in his *History of Somerset:*

"Rex ten. Nortcuri (Com) Herald. tenuit T.R.C. et geldabat pro 20 hid. Terra est 40 car. De ea fuit in domino 5 hidæ et ibi 5 car. et 18 servi et 23 coliberti et 100 villani 5 min et. 15 bord. cum 30 car. Ibi 60 ac prati et 50 ac silvæ. Pastura 2 leu. long, et una leu. lat. Hinc M. pertin. 5 Burgenses in Langporth redd. 38 den et 18 servi et 4 porcarii et 2 Cotarii. Tot. red. 23 lib. de albo argento. Ibi est piscaria sed non pertin ad firmam et 7 ac. vineæ.


Creech St Michael
Thorn Falcon
Hatch Beauchamp
West Hatch
Durston
Adsborough
Tuckerton
Hedging
Langaller
Creech Heathfield
Charlton
Ham
Borough Post
Lillesdon Court
Meare Green
Stoke Court
Slough Green
Hatch Park
Hatch Green
Bickenhall
Ashcross
Stony Head
Hammond's Fm.
Wrantridge
Vincent's Fm.
Meare Court Fm.
Meare Elm Fm.
Bath House Fm.
Froglane Fm.
Perryville Barton
Outwood
Haymoor End
Rushton
Ash
Dillesdon
Belmont
Coigload
Durston Junction
Ham Hall
Thetis Fm.
Foxholt
Tarnock Canal
Borough Fm.
Windmill Hill
Sparkford Fm.
Whittle's
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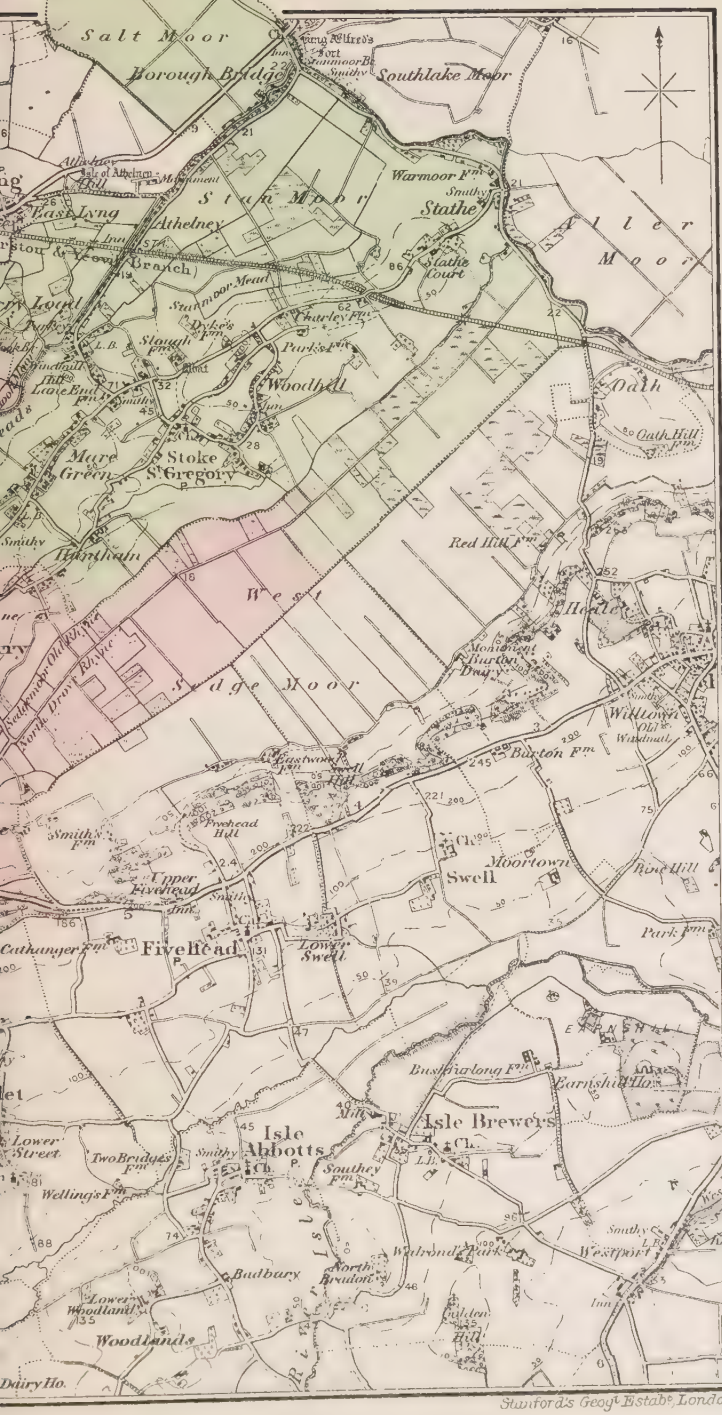

DRED AND MANOR OF
RISED THE PARISHES OF
ECORY AND WEST HATCH

"Æclesiam hujus M. ten. (Ep) Mauricius cum 3 hid de ea terra. Ibi habet 7 Villanos et 11 bord, et 2 servos cum 4 car, et 18 acris prati et 5 acris pasturæ et 12 acris silvæ Redd 60 solid.

"De eadem terra hujus M. ten. Ansger 1 hid, de comite Morit val 20 sol."

This is also translated by Collinson as follows:

"The king holds Nort Curi. Earl Harold held it in the time of king Edward and gelded[1] for 20 hides. The arable is forty carucates. Thereof in demesne[2] are five hides and there are five carucates and eighteen servants and twenty-three coliberts[3] and one hundred villanes[4] wanting five, and fifteen cottagers with thirty ploughs. There are fifty acres of meadow and fifty acres of wood. Pasture two miles long and one mile broad. To this manor belong five burgesses in Langporth rendering thirty-eight pence, and eighteen servants and four swine-herds and two cottagers. The whole renders twenty-three pounds of white money. There is a fishery, but it does not belong to the farm, and seven acres of vineyard.

The church of this manor bishop Maurice holds, with three hides of the same land. He has seven villanes and eleven cottagers and two servants, with four ploughs, and eighteen acres of meadow and five acres of pasture and twelve acres of wood. It renders sixty shillings.

Of the same land of this manor Ansger holds one hide of earl Morton. It is worth twenty shillings."

The question of the value of the hide has already been referred to. The total value of the twenty hides or forty carucæ constituting North Curry was £27, and as it was specified as containing 7,832 acres, this was not quite one penny per acre. Much information will be found in Mr. Eyton's *Domesday Studies of Somerset*, where the subject is fully considered,

1. Among our Saxon ancestors, money, tribute, or compensation.

2. In possession of the lord.

3. A tenant in socage, *i.e.*, plough service, a tenure inferior to that by knight service.

4. A bondman, or a servile tenure.

and from which the accompanying tables are extracted.

There were many other manors in Somerset besides those which have been named, but these are sufficient for the sake of comparison and illustration.

Ancient Mode of Taxation.

The King's Tenth, A.D. 1297.

An historical document relating to the delinquency of the collectors of the king's tenth, in the 25th year of Edward I, viz., Hugh de la Hele and John de Knappe, who were collectors for the North Curry hundred, has recently been published in the *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, by Mr. G. E. Weare. It is given here with Mr. Weare's explanation.[1]

North Curry Hundred, Somerset

(25 Edward I).

"The following documents now translated refer to certain defalcations in the collection of the tenths due to the king in respect of the personal or movable property of the inhabitants of this hundred; and the date will probably recall to the memory of the students of history the fact that at this period the struggle against the levying of tillages or prises by the king without the consent of parliament had almost attained to a national crisis, which resulted in the king being compelled to bend before the storm; and his confirmation of the charters, together with the celebrated statute, 'De Tellagio non concedendo,' may be justly placed amongst the most important events of our national history."

G. E. Weare.

"Edward, by the grace of God king of England, lord of Ireland, and duke of Aquitaine, to our beloved and faithful Gilbert de Bere[2] greeting.

1. See also pp. 288, 322.

2. Gilbertus de Bere was returned to parliament for the county of Somerset in 1299—1300, and again in 1300—1301.

"Whereas there is owing to us £54 15*s.* 10¾*d.*, of the arrearages of the tenth lately granted to us from the laity from the men of the hundred of North Cory in the county of Somerset, which Hugh de la Hele and John de Knappe (Cnappe), assessors (taxatores) and collectors of the said tenth in the said hundred raised and appropriated to themselves as we have heard by the assertion of our faithful Robert Guyan. We have assigned you that you make diligent inquiry into the matter by the oaths of honest and lawful men of the said hundred, and especially those who paid the said arrearages to the said collectors. Therefore we commend you that on certain days and at a certain place which you shall provide for the same, you shall take the inquisition in the most discreet and faithful manner that you can. We have also commanded the sheriff of the said county, that on certain days and at a certain place which you shall make known to him, he shall cause to come before you the said Hugh and John to hear the said inquisition, and as well knights as others, honest and lawful men of the said hundred, and especially those who paid the said arrearages as is aforesaid, by whom the truth of the premises may be the better known and enquired into. And having enquired into the truth of this matter, if it appears to you that the said Hugh and John received those arrearages or part thereof, as is aforesaid, that then you shall cause them to be attached, to cause and take them to appear before the barons of our exchequer at Westminster on the morrow of Low Sunday ("Clausi Pasch"), that our court may take consideration thereof in this matter. And the inquisition distinctly and openly made upon the premises, under your seal and the seals of those by whom it was made, together with all things touching that inquisition, you shall have there on that day. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness, P. de Wilughby, locum tenens of our Treasurer at Westminster, the second day of March, in the 25th year of our reign.

"[Endorsed] In the Roll of the Pleas for the King of the 25th year.

"Inquisition made at North Cory, in the vigil of Palm Sunday, in the twenty-fifth year of the reign of King Edward, before Sir Gilbert de Bere, who was assigned to this by the Lord the King, according to the form and tenor of his commission of the tenth granted to the Lord the King on behalf of the goods of the laity; and whether Hugh de la Hele and John de Knappe (Cnappe), assessors and collectors in the Hundred of North Cory, raised and appropriated to themselves, £54 15*s.* 10¾*d.* It is found by the oaths of Sir Walter de Louery,[1] Baldric de Nonyngton, Thomas de Mere, Walter le Frye, Richard le Frye, Hugh Cancy, Robert de Asso, Roger Grey, William de la Putte, Richard de la Bule, John Ekke, and Nicholas de la Chambre, and by the oaths of all those who paid the said tenth, who say that the aforesaid Hugh and John, the principal collectors, and Robert de Groys and William de Murydone, their associates, raised in the hundred aforesaid, to the use of the Lord the King in the name of a tenth, £76 17*s.* 10½*d.* And out of that they paid to Sir W. de Stanton[2] and J. de Blakefford, the principal receivers of the whole tenth of the county of Somerset, £25 14*s.* 2½*d.* And so there remains in the hands of the said Hugh and John £51 3*s* 8*d.* In witness whereof the jurors aforesaid have put their seals to this inquisition.

"[Endorsed] To the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer by Gilbert de Beere.

"Somerset . . . . . the morrow . . . . . Palm Sunday[3].

1. These names represent the twelve jurymen. It appears from the endorsement that Baldric de Nonyngton was a knight. Sir Baldric held Lillesdon, one of the tithings of North Cory, of king Edward I, "as of the honour of the castle of Carisbrooke in the Isle of Wight" (Collinson). "Baldricus de Noneton," Cal. Inquis. Post Mortem, Edw. I.

2. Willielmus de Stanton represented the county of Somerset in the parliament summoned to meet at Westminster, 15 July, 1290. He was again returned to parliament 1295. The same (?) person was returned in 1304-5.

3. A portion damaged. Unfortunately the seals have been destroyed.

"The Mainpernors[1] (Manucaptores) of John de Cnappe.

"William Hugoth.
"Walter le Hundredman.
"Thomas de Boklande.
"Simon de Domerham.

"The mainpernors of Hugh de la Hele.

"Sir Baldric de Nonyngton.
"Richard le Bole.
"Thomas de Boklande.
"William de la Putte."

[NOTE.—In olden times families took their name from the place where they dwelt (and not *vice versa* as is sometimes supposed): the word "de," of or belonging, was common at a very early period.]

CUSTOM OF THE REEVE'S FEAST.

Copied from the Tablet in the Vestry of North Curry Church: a corresponding Document is in the possession of the Churchwardens.

"The Reeve provides the feast and in order to enable him to do so—The Lords of the Manor allowing the Lords rent of the Feast Tenement in respect of which he is appointed to the office, an annual allowance of Two Pounds by the name of Leaze Fees a payment of Two Pounds under the name of Cane Wood and Four pounds and five shillings under the name of Beef and Pork.

The Reeve is also allowed by the occupier of the Lay Rectory now held by Mr. Charles Holcombe Dare for Lives under the Dean and Chapter of Wells Thirty six Bushels of good marketable wheat and Forty eight shillings in money to be rendered on de-

1. Mainpernors differ from bail, in that a man's bail may imprison or surrender him up before the stipulated day of appearance; whereas mainpernors can do neither, but they are bound to produce him to answer all charges whatsoever. Sometimes, when a man is committed to his mainpernors, they give an undertaking for his appearance, he is said "to be let to mainprise."—Holthouse's *Dictionary*, pp. 241–2.

mand at any time within a month before Christmas annually and likewise by the holders of the undermentioned Estates the quantity of wheat set opposite the names of their Tenements respectively to be rendered within the like period.

Names of Manors	*Tenements*	*Present Owners*	*Wheat they contribute.*
North Curry	Moredon	R. H. Scott	2 Bushels
Do.	Late Halls	William Long	2 Do.
Do.	Late Collins'	Saml. Bucknole	2 Do.
Wrantage	Late Morris	James Mead	2 Do.
Do.	Listoke	Representatives of the late Saml. L. Crossman	2 Do.
Do.	Stones	James Faun	2 Do.
Do.	Late Hills	Chrs. Spiller	2 Do.
Do.	Burrows	Jno. Ludwell	2 Do.
Do.	Late Smiths	Philip Foster	1 Do. 1½ Peck
Do.	Late Ludwells	John Ludwell	2½ Do.
Do.	Late Elsons	Wm. Potter	1 Bush & 2 Pecks

The Custom of preparing for and holding the feast is for the Reeve to provide 3 fat Heifers and put them in the Manor pound adjoining North Curry Churchyard the Sunday before Christmas day, if Christmas happen to be on any other day than Monday or Tuesday but if it falls on Monday or Tuesday then the Sunday week before Christmas day for the inspection of the persons entitled to the feast who may insist on having them changed if good ones are not provided, then these are killed by a butcher appointed by the Reeve and the day before Christmas day delivered with a good half pig to two tenants of the manor of North Curry called Dealers who continue for many years but are annually summoned to their duty by the Reeve and have their vacancies filled up by him.

The Dealers are to attend—The day before Christmas day except that day be on a Sunday and then

the day preceding at the Reeves with a clerk to cut or deal or dole out the Beef and Pork to the persons entitled to receive it and they have provided for them by the Reeve, Beef Stakes and Onions for Breakfast—Top but of Beef and 3 marrow Bones boiled with the marrow taken out and spread on toasted bread for Dinner and a Feast each of 2 Loaves of Bread 8 Pennyworth of Beef and 2*d.* in money and 1lb. of Beef Suet to be sent home to their houses for their trouble. The Dealers serve out 2 Ribs of Beef 2 Ribs of Pork 2 Loaves of Bread and 2*d.* in money to each of the holders of the following Freehold manors.

Manors	*Tenements*	*Present Owners*
North Curry	Moredon late Ceeley's	Robert H. Scott
Curry Vowells	Do.	Portman Edwd. Berkely
North Curry	Calmadys	Foster John Hopkins
Knapp	Jack of Knapp	RichardsonFrancis
East Curry	Slough Farm	Henry Powell Collins
Do.	Huntham Farm	Scott Robert Hooper
Curry Cumwell	Bridges	Perratt John

They also serve out to the occupiers of each of the 2 following Tenements namely William Hembry's Tenement in the Manor of East Curry now belonging to Robert Hooper Scott and Murless' Tenement in the Manor of North Curry and belonging to William Payne a Feast and half namely 3 Loaves of Bread 1/- worth of Beef and 3*d.* in money—They also serve to the occupiers of the following Tenements 2 Loaves of Bread 8 Pennyworth of Beef and 2*d.* in money.

Manor of North Curry.

Tenements.	*Present Owners.*
Late Collins' . . .	Bucknole, Jno.
„ ditto . . .	ditto.
„ Wares . . .	ditto.

Tenements.	*Present Owners.*
Late Alloways' . . .	Burnell, Wm.
„ ditto . . .	ditto.
„ ditto . . .	ditto.
Cornelius'	ditto.
ditto	ditto.
Dennis'	ditto.
Late Whatleys . . .	Burge, Sarah.
„ Hembrows . .	ditto.
Shoemakes . . .	Bobbet, John.
Dibbins and Brewers .	Crease, James.
Parks'	Crease, Rachael.
Late Coombs' . . .	Coombes, Martha.
Ludridges . . .	Comer, William.
Late Seymours or Barrington	Dare, Chas. H.
Prowses	ditto.
Parish Plot late Richards .	ditto.
Late Gudridges . .	Dare, Philip.
„ Perhams . . .	Dare, Lawrence.
„ Stones . . .	ditto.
„ Meads or Baskets .	Foster, Henry.
„ Cadburys . . .	Murless, Bernard.
„ Hillards . . .	Foster, Samuel.
„ Derhams . . .	Foster, Derham Wm.
„ Battens . . .	Haddon, Wm.
„ Jennings . . .	Lea, Wm.
„ Pophams . . .	Long, Robt. Ludwell.
„ Ludwells . . .	ditto
„ Houses . . .	ditto
„ Lowshay . . .	ditto
„ Verriers . . .	ditto
„ Birds . . .	ditto
„ Halls . . .	Long, William.
„ Gales . . .	ditto
„ Virgins . . .	Miller, Martha.
„ Whatleys or Gudridges	Mead, James.
„ Morris . . .	ditto
„ Manifies . . .	ditto
„ Robinsons . .	Mead, James.
„ David Coombes. .	Priddle, Mary.
Moredon	Scott, Robert Hooper.

Tenements.	*Present Owners.*
Moredon	Scott, Robert Hooper.
Dobles	ditto
Hurstons	ditto
Milliners	ditto
Morrises	ditto
Tarrs	ditto
Spearings	ditto
Rowsells	ditto
Hammonds . . .	ditto
Handoles	ditto
Bowers or Wm. Payns .	ditto
Goodwyns	ditto
Mewses	ditto
Late Lloyds . . .	Widow Bridge.
„ Sandfords . .	Sandford, H. F., Esq.
„ Bayhams . . .	Wescombe, Wm.

Knapp in North Curry.

Cornishes late Sealy . .	Bird, John.
Late Juxons . . .	Derham, Betty.
Hoars	House, William.
Late Hurstons . . .	Foster, Philip.
Cornishes	Rowsell, Josias.
Wadhams	Southwood, Frances.
Crossmans . . .	Barrington, Charles.
Sellicks	ditto
Evans	ditto

Manor of Wrantage.

Late Smiths . . .	Foster, Philip.
„ ditto . . .	ditto
„ ditto . . .	ditto
„ ditto . . .	ditto
Gudridges . . .	ditto
Late Ludwells . . .	Ludwell, John.
„ ditto . . .	ditto
Burrows	ditto
Strangeways . . .	ditto
Late Saml. Stones . .	Adams, William.

Tenements.	*Present Owners.*
Late Hurstons . . .	Sweeting, John.
„ ditto . . .	ditto
Stones	Representatives of late John Weaver.
Late Crimps . . .	ditto
„ Weavers . . .	ditto
Moorend	Murless, Bernard.
Late Hurstons . . .	ditto
„ ditto . . .	Spiller, Christopher.
„ ditto . . .	ditto
Widow Hurstons or Brownswords . . .	Ludwell, John.
ditto	or Mrs.
Burtons	Smith, Isaac.
Late Locks . . .	Goodland, Wm.
„ Potters . . .	Potter, Wm.
„ Wm. Elsons . .	ditto
„ Yards . . .	Representatives of the late Saml. Lee Crossman.
Late Lloyds . . .	Bridges, Widow.
„ Stones . . .	Faun, James, and Barrington, William.
„ Cousins or part of Stones . . .	ditto
„ Currys . . .	Linton, Thomas, and Keats, John.
„ Widow Keats . .	Pocock, Henry.
„ Totterdells . .	Totterdell, Charles.
„ Hancocks . . .	Hurman, Chas.
„ Collins . . .	Howe, Chas.
„ Sisters or Sisters .	Chambers, John.
Tices.	Sweeting, John.
Nutts	Nutt, William.

Manor of East Curry.

Late Collings . . .	Brewer, James.
„ Wrights . . .	Richardson, Francis.
„ ditto . . .	ditto
„ Palmers . . .	Bargery, Clement.
„ ditto . . .	ditto

Tenements.	*Present Owners.*
Late Bartletts . . .	Morrish, Wm.
„ Collings . . .	Hurman, Thos.
Peddles and Sellicks . .	Peddle, Richard.
Lockets	House, James.
ditto	Brewer, Joshua.
Late Peddles . . .	ditto
Quicks	Dare, Laurence.
Churley or late Rowsells .	Weaver, Richard.
Late Warrs . . .	Verrier, John.
Collickshire . . .	Sawtell, Wm.
Boyers	Barrington, Wm.
Late Powells . . .	Morrish, Thos.
Hancocks	Barrington, Robt.
Late Seymours . . .	House, John.
„ John Hoopers . .	Scott, John Hooper
„ Derhams . . .	ditto
„ Kinglakes . . .	Kinglake, Widow.
Andrews	Leaky, John.
Late Hoyals . . .	Hearne, George.
Clarkes or Powells . .	Morrish, Thos.
Andrews	Franklin, Rd.
Riches or Sticklands .	Dare, Charles Holcombe.
Trotts	Richards, Joan.
Pykes	Dyer, Thomas.
Beddles	Barrington, Wm.
Late John Brewers or Curtis	Bond, Thomas.
Lane End	Barrington, John.
Taylors	Bobbett, Arthur.
Late Smiths . . .	Bridge, Widow.
„ Dr. Taylors . .	Dare, Mary.

The Dealers also serve out a Loaf and one third of Bread, Two thirds of eight Pennyworth of Beef and two pence in money to the occupier of the late Samuel Powell's Tenement in the Manor of East Curry called a Two Thirdingale Tenement now belonging to Mary Dare also one half of the last mentioned allowance to the occupier of late Thomas Powells in the Manor of East Curry called a Thirdingale now also belonging to Mary Dare.

They likewise serve out one Loaf of Bread four

Pennyworth of Beef and one Penny in money to the occupiers of the following Tenements called Half Feast Tenements, viz.:

Manors	*Tenements*	*Present Owners*
North Curry	Late Alloways	Burnell, William
Do.	„ Goddards	Bridge, Richard
Do.	„ Mary Pococks	Crease, Rachael
Do.	„ Parkers or Dummetts	Dare, Chas. Holcombe
Do.	„ John Juxons	Foster, John Hopkins
Do.	„ Nash's	Long, Robt. Ludwell
Do.	„ Coggans	Potter, William
Wrantage	„ Tarrs	Ludwell, John
East Curry	„ Palmers or Minifies	Palmer, John
Do.	„ Widow Smiths	Sawtell, Wm.
Do.	Poor House	Overseers of Poor
Do.	Do.	Bridge, Widow
Do.	Healy's	Barrington, Wm.
Do.	Tuckers	Meade, John

Each of which loaves of Bread is to be made of good white Flour. To be well baked and to weigh after baking five pounds and the Beef is to be valued at the price for which Beef of the like quality is then currently selling.

To the Reeve of West Hatch within the said Manor The Dealers serve half a Bullock and the hind quarter of half a Pig for the use of the tenants of that Manor on his paying Five shillings for it to the Reeve of North Curry. But before he is allowed to enter the Reeve's House he is to sing the following song.

"King John he was a noble Knight
I'm come to demand my right
Open the door and let me in
Else I'll carry away my money again."

The Dealers serve out these feasts to the persons entitled to them, who are to send for them between sunrise and sunset the day before Xmas day, unless it happen to be on a Sunday and then the day preced-

ing and the Dealers also serve out for the Reeve a Chine, Round and Rump of Beef for mince meat and the belly part of the fore quarter of the half of Pig for a feast to be provided the day after Xmas day except it be a Sunday and then the day following by the Reeve for the Lords of the Manor of Knapp and Slough who are called the "Jacks of Knapp and Slough" and have the feast for themselves and their attendants after mentioned. Besides the Chief Feasts of Beef &c. in common with the holders of the other five freehold manors they or their deputies arrive at the Reeves House the feast day about 1 o'clock. The Jack of Knapp or his Deputy attended by three men and a boy. And the Jack of Slough or his Deputy by two men and a boy.

When the Jack of Knapp or his Deputy arrives, the Key of the Reeve's Cellar (in which there is to be provided a half a hogshead at least of good Ale for the feast) is given to one of his attendants. The Jack or Deputy proceeds to divide the offal or inferior parts of the Bullocks and Half Pig, not distributed by the Dealers to the holders of Tenements, into portions to be given away in the afternoon to the "Second Poor."

The Jack of Slough or Deputy divides six dozen of Bread weighing five pounds each Loaf when well baked provided by the Reeve for the like purpose.

The Jacks and their attendants then sit down to a dinner provided by the Reeve consisting of the Chine of Beef roasted and the rump and round Boiled, the Belly piece of the fore quarter of the half Pig rolled up and made into a collar of Brawn scalded and served up with a sprig of Rosemary and powdered with Flour, a Hen with the Head and tail on but the rest of the feathers except the tail plucked off a little boiled and served up on sops of bread, proper vegetables, a large Mince Pie with an effigy of King John in paste properly painted to represent a King stuck up in the middle of it. Bread and Ale and Cheese after. When they sit down to dinner two candles weighing a pound each are lighted and until they are burnt out the Jacks and their attendants have a right

to sit drinking Ale. After dinner the regular toasts are,

"To the Immortal memory of King John."
"The Real Jack of Knapp."
"The Real Jack of Slough."

Afterwards other Toasts are given.

The Jacks give away the Bread and the offal Beef and Pork to the Second Poor.

When they have drunk as much as they like, they depart. The Jack of Slough or Deputy holding the stirrup of the Jack of Knapp or Deputy for him to mount, and receiving a shilling as his fee.

The undersigned declare the above to be the Immemorial Customs of the Feast held annually in the Manor of North Curry and as contributors thereto or partakers thereof they make this recognition for better preserving and keeping up the same.

Charles Holcombe Dare admits his liability as Lessee of the Parsonage to contribute 36 Bushels of Wheat and forty eight shillings annually towards the Feast above mentioned but he admits nothing further in regard to the above statements.

Robert Hooper Scott	E. B. Portman, Esq. by John Perratt
William Long	
John Bucknole in the right of my father Saml. Bucknole	John Perratt
	Robert L. Long
	James Crease
James Meade	John Barrington
Francis Richardson	Richard Weaver
Jack of Knapp	James Brewer
William Goodland	Isaac Smith
Josias Rowsell	Henry Foster
Henry Lea	Thomas Linton
Rachel Crease	John Keats
Martha Miller	William Comer
James Yard	Sally Burge
John Mead	William Nutt
William House	Philip Dare.

The marble tablet on which the particulars of this custom are inscribed is in the vestry, but much of the inscription having become obliterated, it has recently

been re-lettered by the direction of the Parish Council. The custom was in danger of becoming obsolete, and in order to restore its observance, the late Mr. Collins, of Hatch Beauchamp, who was Jack of Slough, being the owner of Slough Farm, Stoke St. Gregory, caused this tablet to be placed and inscribed about the year 1850, from the information of persons then living who remembered the old custom, and whose names are subscribed as agreeing to it.

The last feast observed was in the year 1865, when the reeve for the year was the late Mr. Robert Bobbett. I was present at the feast of 1864, when the late Mr. William Hurman, then living in White Street Farm, held the office and at whose house it was held. For the year 1863 Mr. James Temlett was reeve. I have the accounts of the two latter, and it may be of interest if I give copies of them. They show that the office, when properly carried out, was by no means a lucrative one.

The Jack of Knapp was Mr. Charles Barrington, by virtue of his being the owner of a piece of land situated at Knapp, near the river at Haymoor's End and behind the Royal Oak Inn, called "Parker's Mead," and which was formerly and for many years in the possession of the Richardson family, late of Langford House, Fivehead. No finer specimen of the British yeoman could be found than Mr. Barrington, more the figure of king Harry than king John. The dinner was served in conformity with the statute, and afterwards the toasts were given, and others of a loyal and patriotic character; and interspersed with songs which included one by the Jack of Knapp, "The Roast Beef of hold Hingland," "O for the hold Hinglish Roast Beef." Among the company were Mr. George Crease, Mr. James Temlett, Mr. Reed of Fullands, Mr. Wm. Hellard of Taunton.

The Jack of Slough, who was then Mr. Gore-Langton, was represented by his agent. I have forgotten the rest of the company.

The minutiæ of the feast were duly observed, besides some other unwritten laws. The toasts were drunk in bumpers, and if the glass was not emptied (no

heeltaps were allowed) the offender was fined by having it over again—(high beer-glasses were then used). I do not think the company remained sufficiently long to see the two candles burnt down, but although the genuine hospitality of the reeve did not limit us to the conventional "beer," I do not think anyone went away incapable. A law usually observed was, that the servant who brought in the mince pie with the effigy of king John (which was somewhat grotesque), should receive a shilling if she did so with due sedateness; this she did and received her reward. The servant on that occasion was the present Mrs. Stone. wife of Mr. John Stone, butcher.

In the year 1868, principally through the efforts of the late Mr. Gore Langton, then M.P. for West Somerset, backed up by a resolution of a parish meeting held 18 Nov., 1867, an arrangement was made with the Charity Commissioners, in conjunction with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to convert the funds into a charity. This now yields the yearly sum of £33 13*s.* 9½*d.*, of which £21 14*s.* 9½*d.* is appropriated to North Curry, £7 to Stoke St. Gregory, and £4 19*s.* to West Hatch.

This money now proceeds from the following sources:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The Charity Commissioners . . .	14	10	0
ditto ditto for West Hatch .	2	9	8
The Ecclesiastical Commissioners in respect of North Curry Parsonage .	11	17	0
Major Barrett, for nos. 1769, 1928, 1686 .	1	11	6
ditto ditto 1010, 1040, 1044 .	1	1	7¾
Reps. of Miss Amy Barrington, 1008 .	0	10	6
John Spiller (now Christopher) no. 889 .	0	13	1½
John Whittle. nos. 781, 807, 808 . .	0	8	6½
James Bellringer, no. 1514 . . .	0	10	6
Mrs. Swanborough, Wrantage, nos. 818, 819	0	1	3¾
	£33	13	9½

The following is the order and schedule arranged

by the Charity Commissioners as to the mode of its disposal.

Charity Commission.

In the matter of the charity called the North Curry Reeve's Feast, in the parish of North Curry in the County of Somerset.

The Board of Charity Commissioners of England and Wales having considered an application in writing made to them on the twenty-eighth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, in the matter of the above-mentioned charity, by Robert Bobbett, the reeve of North Curry, George Mitcham, the reeve of Stoke St. Gregory, and Charles Cousins, the reeve of West Hatch, and twenty-two other persons, being inhabitants of North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, and West Hatch, and recipients of the fund constituting the income of the charity ; and it appearing to the said board that the gross annual income of the said charity does not amount to fifty pounds, and that the recipients of the funds constituting the income thereof are desirous that the income shall be converted and appropriated to the charitable purposes embodied in the scheme hereby established ; and that it is desirable that trustees thereof should be appointed and that a scheme should be established for the future regulation of the said charity. And upon notice of the intention of the said board to make an order appointing trustees and establishing a scheme having been given by the affixing of the same according to the direction of the said board to the principal outer door of the parish church of West Hatch, on the seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight ; and of the parish churches of North Curry and Stoke St. Gregory respectively, on the eighth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, being more than one calendar month previously to the date hereof, and no notice of any objection to the said proposed order or suggestion of the viration thereof having been received by the said board Do hereby order that the vicar and churchwardens and the guardians of the poor of the parishes

of North Curry, West Hatch, and Stoke St. Gregory, respectively, and in right and during tenure of their respective offices; and the said board do further order that the right to sue for, recover, and receive as heretofore and to give receipts and discharges for all sums of money and choses in action due to and recoverable for the benefit of the said charity, and all property belonging to the trustees or managers thereof do vest in the said trustees hereby appointed, their executors, administrators, and assigns, in trust for the said charity. And the said board do further order that the scheme set out in the schedule hereto be approved and established as the scheme for the future regulation of the said charity.

The Schedule above referred to.

That the clear income which is applicable to the parish of North Curry, and the district parishes of West Hatch and Stoke St. Gregory respectively, shall be applied to the benefit of the most deserving and necessitous inhabitants of the said parish and places respectively, according to the proportions in which the said income is now applicable to such parish and places respectively, and that the recipients shall be selected by the trustees, who shall provide them with clothes, bedding, fuel, medical or other aid in sickness, food or other articles in kind, or with pecuniary aid in special cases as shall be considered by the trustees to be most advantageous to them, and that either directly or indirectly; or by aiding the funds of any provident or friendly associations to which they shall belong, or any public institutions of which respectively it shall be the object to provide them with like benefit, and so that no funds of the charity shall be applied directly or indirectly with the view of relieving or diminishing the poor rates of the said parish; or that a competent part of the income may, in the discretion of the said trustees, be applied in aid of any school or schools accessible to the children of the said parish or places respectively, and conducted under such regulations as will not operate to exclude

any such children on account only of their religious creed or persuasion.

Signed by order of the board, this eighth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and sixty eight.

Henry M. Vane, Secretary.

The trustees up to the year 1896 were in accordance with the arrangements made in 1868 : the vicar, churchwardens, and guardians. The Parish Council now having been established thought it desirable to alter the trusteeship, and decided to elect two other persons in the place of the churchwardens, who will be re-elected every three years.

The following are copies of the accounts of the reeves for the years 1863 and 1864.

Mr. James Temlett's Account.

Dec. 1863. *Receipts.*	£	s.	d.
From the Dean and Chapter of Wells .	14	10	0
Mrs. Scott Gould for 4 Bush. of Wheat at 5/6	1	2	0
Mr. Cousins, 2 Bush.	0	11	0
„ Wm. Hurman, Do.	0	11	0
„ Derrick, 1 Peck	0	1	4½
C. H. Dare, Esq. for Beer . . .	2	8	0
Mr. Phocion Foster for Meat sold . .	7	1	0½
„ Jones for 9½lbs. Beef . . .	0	4	9
„ Batten for 10¼lbs. Suet at 6d. . .	0	5	1½
„ J. H. Nicholls for 13½ Beef at 6d. .	0	6	9
„ Anthy. Poundsberry for 18lbs. Beef at 5d.	0	7	6
„ J. Collier, 33lbs. at 5d. . . .	0	13	9
Do. for 16 Bus. Wheat at 5/3 . .	4	4	0
Mr. Cousins for the Hides . . .	2	9	2
Rough fat	1	11	0
By Beef sent to London . . .	4	11	3
3 Belly's	0	10	6
Bran	0	13	0
½ sack flour left over	0	15	0
	£42	16	2½
due to Reeve . . .	0	10	1½
	£43	6	4

Dec. 1863. *Payments.*	£	s.	d.
To bought one Bullock at Langport	13	0	0
Do. Two Do. at Combe St. Nicholas	26	5	0
To Half Pig	0	13	0
Mr John Collier for making the flour	0	15	0
Mr. Edwd. White for baking 19 Doz. and 9 Loaves of Bread	0	13	2
„ Anthony Poundsberry Do.	0	13	2
Mrs. Wildring for cooking the dinner	0	6	0
Mr. Henry Foster for Killing 3 Beasts	1	1	0
	£43	6	4

1863. The amount of Wheat had for the Reeve's Feast—Mr. James Temlett—Reeve.

	Bush.	*Pecks*
The proprietor of the Parsonage of North Curry, C. W. Dare, Esq.	36	0
Mrs. Scott Gould	4	0
Mr. Worthy Potter	3	2½
„ Henry Cousins, W. Hatch	2	0
„ Christopher Spiller	0	2
„ Philip Foster	1	1½
„ James Whittle	0	2½
„ Wm. Barrington	2	0
„ Hurman	2	0
„ Levi Derrick, West Hatch	0	1
	54	1½

Mr. William Hurman's Account.

1864. Account of Wheat, &c. for the Reeve's feast. Wm. Hurman, Reeve.

	£	s.	d.
Decr. Recd. By 54 Bush. 1½ Peck of Wheat at 5/- per Bush.	13	11	10
Cash from Dean and Chapter of Wells	14	10	0
Do. from Parsonage for firewood, &c.	2	8	0
By Beef sold dealing day	9	5	0

Rough fat	0	18	6
3 Hides	2	3	4
Loins of Beef sent to London . . .	3	19	4
Recd. By Mr. R. Batten for 27lbs. of Beef at 7½d.	0	14	0
Beef left more than cooked for dinner at 6½d.	0	16	3
By West Hatch Reeve	0	5	0
	£48	11	3

1864. *Paid.*

To Paid Mr. A. Poundsberry for 20 Doz. Bread at 4/3	4	5	0
Mr. White, 21 Doz. and 6lbs. flour . .	4	10	0
Mr. R. Barrington for a fat Heifer . .	12	10	0
Two of my own Heifers	29	10	0
Mr. Baulch for Half a Pig, 42lbs. at 6½d. per lb.	1	2	6
Mrs. Wilding for cooking dinner, &c. .	0	7	6
Mr. R. Batten for slaughtering beasts .	1	1	0
To paid for Spices for Mince Pie . .	0	4	6
Do. Candles	0	2	0
	£53	12	6
Receipts . . .	£48	11	3
due to the Reeve .	£5	1	3

King John is popularly credited with having instituted this feast, and the customs connected with it. These customs are curious in themselves and seem to preserve something of a personal reminiscence of that king. The charters in relation to the manor of North Curry show his connection with the manor: the itinerary shows that he was at Curry or the neighbourhood three or four times. There seems also to be a possible connection between these summer visits and the curious custom directing one of the tenants to superintend

the haymaking in the kings-meade in white gloves and with a white rod in his hand.

Since the time when this inscribed tablet was placed by Mr. Collins, on the evidence of persons whose names are there given, declaring what was the "immemorial custom," and "for the better preserving and keeping up the same," the feast appears to have been regularly observed until its conversion into a charity as already stated.

What is the origin of the custom? Collinson, who wrote his history in 1791, in his reference to North Curry, makes no allusion to it; but with regard to West Hatch he says, "The reeve or bailiff of the manor provides at the lord's expense a feast on Christmas day, and distributes to each householder a loaf of bread, a pound-and-half of beef, and the like quantity of pork undressed, and the same evening treats them to a supper." And under Stoke St. Gregory he says, "For driving the moors a reeve is appointed annually." Both these parishes had a share in the "feast," and these appear to be imperfect references to it. In the Wells MSS., p. 161, under date A.D. 1314, there is a long account of the "customs of the manor of North Curry," given on the testimony of a jury of ten, named, chosen by the homage and giving evidence on oath: a very similar course to that adopted in 1850. There is a great resemblance between this and the inscription on the tablet, and there is no doubt it refers to the same custom. It says, "The Hundrardius is to receive and execute with certain assistants the king's writ." "His Gestum at Christmas is to be two good white loaves of wheat," etc. The "broweti de Gallinis" (fowl stew or broth), has also reference to the modern rendering of the dish at dinner, "a hen served up upon sops of bread, etc." A fire and two candles are named in each account: in the later one, the two candles are *both* lit when they come to dinner: in the earlier one they are to be burnt *one after the other*. There are, however, other customs mentioned in the first but omitted in the second, such as attending with a white rod and white gloves in Kingemeade to superintend the mowers, etc.

Excepting as to these omissions, the similarity is so great that both accounts must have reference to the same custom.

No mention is made of king John as having instituted this custom. He has, however, popularly the credit. In the later institution, the principal toast is "to the immortal memory of king John." There is no doubt on 30 September, 1199, he confirmed a charter granted by king Richard on 27 November, 1189; and at Bristol on 10 September, 1206, again confirmed the same, and in addition granted North Curry a market every Wednesday. (The manor had been previously granted to bishop Reginald by Henry II, A.D. 1154.) I venture to think this custom was the survival of one established long prior to king John or Richard I, and that it was a Saxon or Ancient British custom, and had its origin in ancient land tenure and rights of pasturage and services: part of the custom of the manor with an ancient village community.[1] It is clear that most local customs were not changed when William the Conqueror took possession of the land. It is asserted he had no wish to change the constitution of the country, least of all to interfere with the local customs and self-government of villages. The old system was to have village officers and to pay them for their services by grants of land. Here we find "the hundrardius (or reeve) has two virgates of land and pasture rights." The "berebrit," the old Saxon name or designation of the garnier or keeper of the granary, "had all allowances the same as the prepositus (or reeve)," "William the smith holds one ferdel," etc.

There is also distinct evidence in the names of places, fields, etc., in North Curry, of Anglo-Saxon origin, and also of the division of land into open fields, which is the remains of the old field system. There are many instances of this remaining, in which divisions are made into narrow strips, such as those in

1. In the earliest times, certain rights were granted without any written charter, but upon the observance of certain customs.

West Field, Lay Field,[1] Backham, etc. The system of open fields is suggestive of the old village community, and its remains still survive where no enclosure act happens to have swept them away. Strips of land were laid out for ploughing, portions of which were scattered over the manor in acre or half-acre pieces, but usually called acres (not always statute acres). These were generally known to the country folk as "balks," an old Saxon term, and they are separated from each other by banks of unploughed turf: and they are so known here to the present day. The system of ploughing up the balks and throwing several strips into one has been going on for centuries, nevertheless these open fields have not lost their most ancient features of tenure. They were common fields and arable land of a village, community, or township under a manor.

In the Anglo-Saxon translation of the Gospels is an illustration. The story of the disciples walking through the cornfields, describes them as walking over the "æceras," or acres. The possession of the homestead was the source of all other rights, and was the basis of allotment of village lands, and to this it appears the village community in England owes its form and growth, its rights and privileges as a primitive institution. The manorial system was based on the ordinary hundred law, and the system of village law was built up based on a much older code than that of the hundred courts.

In Domesday record it will be seen that there were "five burgesses in Langport belonging to this manor who paid 3*s.* 10*d.*" These were men who were living in a different manor, but were under the laws of the parent manor; they had gone there for employment and still retained their old village communal rights. The serf or villain was disabled from leaving his manor or parish, and if he obtained permission to live away from it and carry on a trade, he had to pay an annual sum, as it were as a licence, and to keep him

1. The Anglo-Saxon "feld" or field does not mean a small enclosure like our present fields, but any flat unwooded land, such as the common open field or tillage ground of a village.

in touch with his home. From these old customs have sprung up an attachment to our homes. The great majority of us feel that the county of our birth is the best part of England, and if we were born country folk, that our parish or village of the county is the most favoured spot.

There are many names of places and fields which indicate the same antiquity: for instance, "ham" signifies an enclosure, a home, or a home close, hence "hamlet," a small village; there are several places ending in "ham," as "Huntham," "Backham," "Pinkham"; "Avellon," an apple island; "Gore," a three-cornered piece; "Dole," a portion; "Bights," a corner or bend, hence "Byttam"="Byht-ham"; "Wrantage," wray, wrey, or wran, meaning awry or crooked; the crooked village. "Dunfield," "dun" meaning any sort of elevation, and many others.

"Thong" farm is a very significant name, and suggests an incident in very early English history. "When the country was invaded by the Saxons in A.D. 450, under the brothers Hengist and Horsa, the British king, Vortigern, allotted to them the Isle of Thanet as their habitation; and not long after, Hengist obtained from the king the property of as much ground as he could enclose with a bull's hide, cut into thongs. He there built the castle, called from thence Thong Castle."[1] Whether Thong Farm was regulated by such means I know not, but its circular formation on a slightly elevated spot near the margin of the moor, as will be seen on the map, suggests such an origin as being possible. There is also a certain amount of tradition in its favour. I was so informed by an old inhabitant many years ago, and only recently by another whose knowledge of history could not have been very extensive. In the same neighbourhood, in fact adjoining, is the King's Meade, nos. 1004 and 1005 on tithe map, measuring about ten acres, probably the place mentioned in the customs of the manor (*Wells MSS.* p. 161), where Thomas de Mere "attended in white

1. Old book of history published 1686.

gloves and a white rod in his hand to see the haymaking": "Simon de Domerham must serve in like manner," and "Robert de la Chambre, the tenant of half a virgate, must come with his rod in hand to superintend the mowing and haymaking, and also the making of the mow."

Chantries.

These were endowments for a priest to say mass daily, or at appointed times, for the souls of the donors.

There were several such here of which we are informed in old documents and also in the Wells MSS. Respecting these institutions, Eyton, in *Wells Cathedral* (p. 280) says: "Through the last century and half (*i.e.* about 1200 to 1350) benefactions to the church had taken the form of endowments by land and money for the fabric fund, or for prebends and offices of the church. Now a greater prominence was being given to the teaching of the church, to the doctrines of purgatory and indulgences and the duty of the living towards the dead, of remembrance before God in prayers and intercession. The foundations of chantries and obits in the church was becoming the fashionable form of religious endowment by which provision was made by gifts and legacies for the support of priests and chaplains who should offer up memorial and intercessory prayers and masses for the departed. All such offerings contributed to the richness and adornment of the church, the offerings for the dead became a source of trade for the living, they supported the ministrant body, they brought worshippers and almsgivers to the church, they fostered the sense of communion between the departed and the generation of the day; and love and enthusiasm for the church as the common home of the departed, and present members of one body, were kindled and perpetuated;" and the same author says (p. 123) "Bishop Savaric (1192-1205) set the example at Wells, as it was elsewhere, of making endowments to obtain intercessory prayers from the living for the

dead, and so providing by requiem masses obits and chantries for a perpetual memorial of the donor."

Allusion is made to a chantry at North Curry in some old deeds in my possession, relating to a tenement at Foss. The description is: "together with the upper part of the doft or curtellage near the chantry of the Blessed Mary in Curry aforesaid, called the Vicarage Orchard." In *Wells MSS.*, p. 39, is: "In order to promote the honour of God and the Glorious Virgin Mary we assign 20 shillings yearly due from the chapel of Stokes to Rd. Tregoz vicar of North Curry and his successors for a daily mass in the chapel built and dedicated to the honour of the Glorious Virgin Mary in the chantry of North Curry. This payment to cease if the service ceases (A.D. 1246)." Regular appointments of priests are made to this: "In 1317, the chantry of St. Mary in the chapel of North Cory with houses and lands appertaining granted by the Dean and Chapter to Roger de Moleyns the chaplain for life." (*Wells MSS.*, p. 86).

In A.D. 1372, "The chapel of St. Mary in the cemetary of North Curry lately held by John de Stanwegg is given by the Dean and Chapter to William May." (*Wells MSS.*, p. 118).

At pages 120 and 122, there are also references to chantry priests being appointed.

At p. 180, "The Dean and Chapter augment the vicarage of North Curry with certain lands for the endowment of a chantry. The Vicar John de Trowbrigge (1349) is to pay one Rose annually on the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (24 June), and during the term of his life is to celebrate a mass every Wednesday and Friday if a duplex festum shall not fall on those days and if the Lord and Lady of Lillesdon shall be present for whose good estate and for whose souls the said chantry is established, &c."

P. 182 of the same refers to a chantry at Lillesdon: "Settlement of questions which have arisen between the Dean and Chapter and Hugh de Bello-Campo (later altered to Beauchamp) and Idonia his wife about a chantry of 3 days in the week at St. Martin's Chapel in Lillesdon, A.D. 1317."

Mention is made that in A.D. 1233 there was a chapel called St. James, at Stathe, and about this time "the Dean and Chapter grant a licence to the chaplain of Lady Matilda, widow of Otho of Wandestre (Wanstow) to serve in the Oratory lately built at Stathe in the Parish of North Curry, the chaplain to swear obedience to the Dean and Chapter that he will not receive offerings due to the church of North Curry or the chapel of Stoke nor alms for annuals or tricennials (30 masses on 30 days in succession) nor for any sacred office without express leave of the Parish Priest of North Curry. The licence granted only during the life of Lady Matilda and during her residence at Stathe."

The dean and chapter in 1300, "desiring to return spiritual things for temporal," endowed with £10 a year, charged on the manor of North Curry, an obit for their benefactor, bishop William de Marchia, at the altar of the Holy Cross under the bell tower, on the north side of the cathedral."—Eyton's *Wells Cathedral*, p. 294.

On the 10th July, 1363, a writ, etc: "John Troubrig, vicar of North Curry, was to give one messuage, fifty acres of arable and three acres of meadow at Long Sutton, to the abbot of Athelney, for finding a wax taper burning every day before the high altar of the abbey church, in behalf of the soul of John Sloo and his ancestors, and all faithful departed."—No. 1, Som. Arch. *Proceedings*, p. 130.

This may have some connection with the stone monument in the church of North Curry, on which is the inscription, "Thom at Slo," or "John at Slo." The first name is very indistinct; if "John," it would correspond with the date of the above, and with the date assigned to it by Lieut.-Col. Bramble.[1]

No trace of the chapel of St. James at Stathe now exists. The Rev. Prebendary Coleman states in a paper in Som. Arch. *Proceedings*, that "there is a field at Stathe called Chaplehay, on this site was an ancient chapel standing, and bodies were there interred."

1. See also p. 110.

Nor is there any trace of the "chantry of the Blessed Mary in the cemetary of North Curry," and its position is unknown.

The latter building must have been of some pretensions, as the materials on its destruction are said to have been valued at £15: a considerable sum for old material in those days.

Separate priests were appointed to serve these chantries independent of the parish clergy. Many of these appointments will be found in the *Wells MSS.*

However mistaken the celebration of these masses for the dead may appear to us in the present day, they were then honestly conducted.

Soon after the dissolution of monasteries[1] in England and Wales by king Henry VIII, came the confiscation in 1545 of all chantries and free chapels to the king and his successors. Two thousand three hundred of these were abolished by statute of 37 Hen. VIII, c. 34. The annual value of all these dissolved houses, etc, exceeded one hundred and sixty thousand pounds. Under various pretences that the confiscation of this vast property was to be for the public good, by far the greater part of the plunder was given away or sold at a low rate to the favourites of the court. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the general utility of these institutions, and of their having been a means of retaining Roman superstitions and doctrine; it was not that which caused their suppression. The hatred of popery simply consisted in the king renouncing the authority of the pope for his own ends, and for his own avaricious aggrandizement. The chief instigators were friends of the church of Rome. Henry was himself a Romanist throughout his life, and so were all those with whom he acted.

1. The first suppression of monasteries, which took place A.D. 1536, numbered 375; the spoil was valued at £32,000 per annum, besides £100,000 from jewels, plate, and other moveables. By this measure 10,000 persons were thrown upon the country. In A.D. 1539, a second suppression took place. The whole number suppressed amounted to about 930. And the total of their revenues reached to about £172,914 per annum.—Pinnock's *Analysis*.

Section II.

Matters relating to North Curry, contained in documents in Wells Cathedral and extracted from *Historical Manuscripts Commission Report of Manuscripts*, by J. A. Bennett.[1]

WITHIN the last few years these documents have been properly arranged and catalogued, and some of the earliest of them placed in glass cases in the library. The early part of Liber Alb. I was written in the reign of Edward I (1272) or possibly Edward II (1307). The earliest entry is of the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066); the last belongs to 1393. It was at first intended as a cartulary, but even in the early part, although charters prevail, other documents relating to cathedral and chapter business are common. The first portion of Liber Rub. II is probably older than Liber Alb. I; its contents are much of the same nature. Liber Alb. III. The contents of this as of the other two books are very varied. Papal bulls, Saxon and later charters, ordinary business transactions, establishment of chantries and vicarages, the regulation of services, perambulations of the forests of Somerset, early custumals of some of the chapter manors, manumissions, etc., are all mixed up together, with here and there examples of the use made by the chapter of the power of excommunication which had been granted to it by bishop Savaric as a measure of

1. These are contained in books of the cathedral called Liber Alb. I and Liber Alb. III and Liber Rub. II.

police in its own properties. Some of these are very curious, as when in Liber Alb. I, fol. 277 in dors, certain unknown poachers of North Cory are denounced in all the churches round with bell, book, and candle; or as in this volume (fol. 213), some forty years earlier one R. Gyan also of North Cory has to submit to eighteen processional whippings on six several Sundays in the cathedral, and to a similar course of discipline on other six Sundays in his own parish church.

North Curry being such an important manor, and having been in the possession of the dean and chapter for so many centuries, the documents relating to it are very numerous and interesting. The following is a transcript from the report of Mr. Bennett, of all such as in any way relate to the manor. The page of his book is given where it may be found, and also references to folios of the original books and documents. I also add a few explanatory notes:

Liber Albus I.

Page 3.

B. Mandate of king Henry to the ballivus of North Cory to call upon Robert de Columbariis to answer for the dues upon two carucates[1] of land in Hach. fol. 8

J. A short entry, partly torn off. An order to the ballivus of North Cory. An inquisition is to be held by order of the king. fol. 8 in dors.

Charter of king Richard, granting North Curi manor to bishop Reginald. At Canterbury, Nov. 27, A.D. 1189. Test. Hugh, bishop of Durham and other names. Per manus Eliensis Electi Cancellar. Anno Regni 1°. fol. 9

Page 4.

The king to the men of North Curi, announcing the above grant. At Canterbury, Dec. 4.

Confirmation of the above by king John, cum terra

1. A carucate.—"A plough land" of about 120 acres.

de Hatche et de Wrentis, Sept. 30, A.D. 1199. Given at Caen. Test. Gaufr., Archbp. of York, etc., etc.

King Richard to the sheriff of Somerset on the above.

Confirmation of the above by king John, with grant of a market on every Wednesday. Test. J., Archbishop of Dublin, etc., etc. At Bristol, Sept. 10, A.D. 1206.

fol. 9 in dors. Ratification by John, count of Mortaigne, of king Richard's charter of North Curi.

fol. 10 Confirmation by John, count of Mortaigne, of a grant by king Henry II of North Curi and Hatch[1] to bishop Reginald and the canons of Wells. Test. Robt. Earl Mellent, etc., etc.

Confirmation and ratification by John, count of Mortaigne, of king Richard's grant of Hatch. Test. Stephen Ridel, chancellor, etc., etc. At St. Edward's.

Letter of John, count of Mortaigne, to the sheriff, etc., de saysina facienda Reginaldo Ep° of North Curi. Test., etc. At Marlborough.

John Dominus Angliæ to the men of North Curi to the same effect. King Richard is now bone memorie.[2] Teste me ipso at Beandeford, April 17.

Gaufrid fil Petri: justiciary to the men of North Curi, stating the grant of John, etc. At Westminster, April 29, per breve d^ni^ Joh^s^ d^ni^ Angliæ de Ultra Mare.

fol. 10 in dors. Inspeximus and confirmation of the above grants by Henry III. Test. Eustice, bishop of London, etc., etc. At Westminster, Feb. 12. II. H. III.

Page 5.

Charter of Henry (Henry III) de deafforestatione[3] of North Curi manor, to Joceline the bishop and

1. Meaning West Hatch.
2. Of good memory—dead.
3. Bringing forest land into cultivation.

Peter the dean and to the chapter. Test., etc. At Fuleham, May 15, anno regni 13°.

Charter of king Stephen. Grant of the churches of North Curi and Perreton to establish prebends. Test., etc. At London. fol. 11

Confirmation of the above by Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury and legate.

Letter of Reginald, bishop of Bath, concerning the above grants. Test., etc., etc.

Confirmation by Savaric, bishop of Bath and Glaston., of the above grants, with freedom from all archidiaconal payments, etc.

Charter of Radulf son of Bernard. Has received from bishop Reinand and the church of Wells, Hacche, a member of North Curri manor to hold for life on payment of duos ceros iiii^or librarum[1] on St. Andrew's day. Test, etc., etc. Sworn to in the chapter. fol. 11 in dors.

Charter of the above R. granting to Baldwin Cocus his servant, for his service, a half virgate of land[2] in Hatch, in fee and hereditary right on payment of one pound of cummin. Test. Stephen Flandrensis.

Grant by the above R. to Eadmund his huntsman, of a ferling of land[3] in Hacche, which Ric de Serrees formerly held as reward for his services on payment of one pound of cummin yearly on St. Michael's day. Test. Stephen Flandrensis.

Agreement between the dean and chapter and Richard, the son of Bernard; the said Richard is bound to satisfy his brother William in the matter of fifteen marcs silver paid by the dean and chapter as part of thirty marcs[4] agreed upon before the justici-

1. Two wax candles of four pounds each.
2. A yard land, or 30 acres.
3. About 7½ acres—a quarter-of-a-yard land.
4. A marc, 13s. 4d.

aries to be paid to him for his claim upon Hacche. He gives his revenues from Liminton as a pledge, the dean and chapter to return the deed when payment has been made. Executed in full chapter.

Hugh de Gundevill restores to the church of Curi all the lands called hunilandes which he had wrongfully taken in the manor of Curi. Test. John de Bathon., Robt. de Gundeville, etc.

Richard, son of Radulf, son of Bernard, warrants to the dean and chapter the manor of Hacche against his brother William, or anyone who may make a claim through his father or mother. If he fails in this, he will give to the dean and chapter in exchange all his lands in Limington. Test., etc., Justiciaries, etc.

fol. 12 Final concord made in the king's court (king John) at Porecester, A.D. 1206, before the king himself and the above-named four justiciaries, between Richard, son of Bernard, and Alex, dean of Wells, and the chapter. The said Richard gives up all claim to the manor of Hacche, and will warrant the dean and chapter against his brother William and all of his race on payment of thirty marcs silver.

Page 6.

Gilbert Gule and Christina his wife, the daughter of Thomas de Bolonia, grant all the land which Thomas de Bolonia and they after him held in North Curi to St. Andrew and the church of Wells, and swear to give them assistance whenever it may be needed in defending their right to the said land. Sealed in the chapter at Wells in die octavarum apostolorum Pet. et Pauli, anno a translatione beati Thome Martyris iii° Test. Walter Capellanus North Curi, Godefrid de Wedmore, etc.

Controvercy between Peter the dean and the chapter of Wells and John de Alre and Agneta his wife. The dean and chapter complain that the said John has wrongfully erected a fence (fossatum) in Salt-More; impounded the animals of the dean and chap-

ter, etc., where they claim a right of fishery; has wrongfully fenced in his wood of Stathe, and occupied some land near the chapel of St. James, and obstructed a right of way at Stathemore between the said chapel and the said wood. The said John and Agneta complain that the dean and chapter have wrongfully destroyed the said fence, and stopped the right of way for animals through Stathmore to Saltmore; have wrongfully made certain lands into meadow land where the said John and Agneta used to have a right of pasture.

fol. 12 in dors.

Agreement: In order that the dean and chapter may more readily fence in their wood Stockwode,[1] and a part of Pinkeham, the said John and Agneta grant to them 15⅛ acres, *i.e.*, 2½ and ⅛ between Stockwode to the east and north. In Bradelega 12½ acres within Stockwode. They grant also a right of pasturing four score animals in Saltmore, and that the dean and chapter may take to themselves sixty acres in Stathemore, which belong to the dean and chapter, but where John and Agneta had pasture rights, beginning at Childesmorweye and imparking westward; saving, however, that there is to be no imparkatio[2] against the animals belonging to John and his men, but that after the hay is carried they may freely pasture there. The said John and Agneta also withdraw all rights which they may have as regards fences, etc., the dean and chapter granting in return a right of way into Sedgmore. In return, the dean and chapter give to John and Agneta in exchange 15⅛ acres, *i.e.* 3¼ acres in Merstowe, and 5½ acres near Rodweye, and 3½ and ¼ acres in Esterclive; and in the meadow near the wood of Stathe 2½ acres and ⅛ of an acre. Also 1½ acres in the same meadow exchange for 1 acre of meadow in Hullemede, and ½ an acre in the croft of Wodebreche. The said John and Agneta may also enclose their wood at Stathe, and also a part of Saltmore, and bring it into meadow and fence it,

1. Woodhill.
2. The right of impounding cattle.

saving to the dean and chapter the right of pasturing 80 animals as above. John and Agneta also to have a right of way for their animals going to Saltmore by the way from Stathe, by the bank of the Peret as far as Saltmore, and by the Curilade way to the said Saltmore. The above agreement to be enrolled in the king's court. Walter Camerarius makes affidavit for the dean and chapter, and John and Agneta in person. Two deeds are prepared and sealed. Any question which may arise is to be settled by the arbitration of some good man. A.D. 1233 on St. Mark's day, in the chapel of St. Gregory of Stoke, at North Curi, in the presence of Peter the dean of Wells, W. the sub-dean, Magister R. de Berkelay, John Kannel, dn[s] John de Reyni, Gilbert dacus, Will Malet, Thomas de Regnys.

Page 7.

fol. 13. Final concord between Peter the dean and the chapter of Wells, represented by John de Templo, and John de Alra and Agneta his wife, made at Westminster in Hilary term, before Will. de Ralegh, Thom. de Muleton, etc., justiciaries, 18 Hen. III (1234). Details as in the above agreement.

fol. 13 in dors. Final concord made at the same time and place between Robert, son of Will Odde, and the dean and chapter. The said Robt. gives to the dean and chapter all his rights in 30 acres of land in Hunteham for 100 sol. sterling.

Charter of Nicholas, clericus, son of Will of Elmeham, grants all his land in Lamlegh in the manor of North Curi, and one acre of meadow on the west side of Wrentiches ford, lying next the land of Ric. Herebert, to the dean and chapter on their paying 12*d.* a year to Henry the hundredsman for all dues, and 5 marcs silver to himself. Test. Walter, camerarius (a chamberlain), Philip de Wylee, etc.

Inspeximus and confirmation of the above by William, the father of Nicholas.

Page 10.

Grant by E. the dean and chapter to Hugh de la Hele and the heirs of his body, of a messuage and ferdel of land in North Curi, formerly held by his father Rich[d] de la Hele, upon an annual payment of 11*s.* 1*d.* in lieu of all secular services, saving hundred and manor court dues and services due to the crown, and a relief of 5 marcs; heirs minors to be wards of the dean and chapter. Test. Walt. de Sovenay, Baldric de Noneton, A.D. 1289. fol. 17 in dors.

Bond of Hugh de la Hele that he will observe the above under a penalty of £60 sterling, to be enforced by distraint upon all his property in North Curi. The same witnesses.

Page 17.

Grant by bishop Joceline of the manor of North Curry and the church, which hitherto the dean and chapter have held towards the augmentation of the communa, saving due provision for a vicarage, of which the presentation is to be with the dean and chapter. Given at Woky in crastino S. Michael by the hand of Master Walter de Maydenestan; Pontificatus nostri anno 34°. fol. 29 in dors.

Page 36.

Manumission[1] by Edward the dean and the chapter of Will. Gyan of North Cory, A.D. 1264. fol. 62.

Concord made between the dean and chapter and Robert, son of the above W. Gyan, super hosbote et heybote[2] in carta sua contenta.[3] Robert is to have sex plaustratas busce[4] in Stathemore annually to be fetched by him between the day of the Exaltation of

1. Liberation—enfranchising a serf.

2. Wood for the repair of his dwelling and wood for the repair of fences.

Note.—Hosbote and heybote were the common rights of copyhold tenants to take necessary timber to repair houses, stuff to make and amend hedges from the land leased by them; similarly firebote is right of fuel, helmbote the right to take straw for thatching, etc.

3. Contained in his deed.

4. Six wagon loads of brushwood.

Holy Cross[1] and St. Michael's day,[2] and he quitclaims husbote and heybote. Test. Galfr. de la Slo, Thom. de Mere, Walter le Frye, Ric. le Frye, Hug. de la Hele, Ric. de Fonte, etc.

Charter by dean and chapter granting to Will Gyan a messuage and three ferdells of land in North Cory, in the parish of Sookes, at a rent of 12*s.* 8*d.* pro omni servitio, saving to the dean and chapter the secta (suit) of the hundred and the custody of minors. If the heirs are of age on the decease of any tenant they shall pay a fine of 12*s.* 8*d.*, etc. A.D. 1264.

Page 39.

fol. 66 in dors. John the dean and the chapter, omnibus, etc. In order to promote the honour of God and of the glorious Virgin Mary, we assign 20 shillings yearly due from the chapel of Stokes to Richard Treyoz, vicar of North Cury and his successors, for a daily mass in the chapel built and dedicated to the honour of the glorious Virgin in the cemetary of North Cury. This payment to cease if the service ceases. A.D. 1246.

Page 53.

fol. 85 in dors. The dean and chapter sell to Cecilia, widow of Robt. de Mere, the custody of the land and marriage of Symon, son of the said Robt. in North Curry. If the said Symon should die before he comes of age, the said Cecilia shall have the same rights towards his brother and sister whichever may be his heir, until the heir comes of age. For this Cecilia pays 10 marcs silver. Given in chapter on St. Alban's Day, A.D. 1268.

Page 62.

fol. 98. Maritagium[3] of Johanna de la Slo of North Curry, granted by the dean and chapter to her. March 24, A.D. 1247.

1. Holy Cross day, 14 Sept.
2. Michaelmas day, 29 Sept.
3. Marriage—right of giving in marriage.

Page 65.

Manumission of W. Gyan. Conf. fol. 62 in dors. fol. 101.

Page 66.

Presentation of Symon Gyas to the vicarage of North Curry, A.D. 1256. fol. 102.

Page 67.

An act of chapter about the communa. Division used to be made per viginti et sex septimanas ad minus.[1] It is now ordered that an audit shall be held four times a year. The administrator shall always have 50 marcs (£33 6*s.* 8*d.*) from the revenues of North Curry ready for division among the residentiaries every year. fol. 105.

Page 69.

The dean and chapter answer to a quo warranto concerning North Curry, by producing the charters of kings Richard[2] and John.[3] fol. 109 in dors.

Page 70.

Visitation of archbp. Peckham. Confirms the chapter in their rights and possessions, viz., the manor of North Curry with the church, and the hundred, and the land of Hacche and Wrentich, etc., granted to them by kings Richard and John, and confirmed by Henry III[4] and bishops Reginald, Savaric, and Josceline. fol. 111 in dors.

Page 83.

Mem. The dean and chapter order that William de Westbury retain his office at North Cory as before, for one year from Michaelmas, A.D. 1322, except that in holding the court there the dean and chapter will appoint an associate. fol. 142 in dors.

A general convocation of the church of Wells, Monday, 8 May, A.D. 1318. fol. 143

1. Twenty-six weeks at least.
2. Richard, 1189–1199.
3. John, 1199–1216.
4. Henry III, 1216–1272.

Article. The tenants of North Cory ask for land in exchange for common rights. Responsio. The dean and four or five of the canons are to examine and settle this.

Article: Walter, a tenant, inquietat dean and chapter per breve nove dississeine[1] super quatuor acras prati de corum dominico. Quale melius defendendum poterit negotium, etc. Responsio: The said Walter and his wife shall have $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres in Knappe.

Page 86.

fol. 149 The dean and chapter wish to enclose a moor in North Cory. If the escheator[2] cannot be found at Bristol, leave is to be asked of John Enge, sub-escheator in Somerset.

R. de Plumstock, Hugh de Pencers, and William de Bourne appointed by the dean and chapter to measure the said moor, and to assign portions to the free tenants and to the villains, and especially to the tenants of Muridone.

The tenants of Mourdon to have one acre of the new enclosure more than the share allotted in the said moors, and thirty acres by the bridge in Cory Moor in common, and a right of way from Boterlake to Folkesmore.

The cottarii to have one acre in separali; they and the other tenants of the dean and chapter and the sons of their villains are to have common rights in the commons on the moors. Each villain to pay six pence for each acre of moor.

The precentor and the succentor to go as quickly as possible to Montacute Priory to seek licence to make a new watercourse for Knappe Mill.

1. A feudal term meaning an unlawful dispossessing of a man of his land.

2. An officer who observes the escheats of the king in the county whereof he is "escheator," who escheats any land, etc., which casually falls to the lord within the manor through failure of heirs.

The Chantry of St. Mary in the chapel at North Cory, with houses and lands appertaining, granted by the dean and chapter to Roger de Moleyns the chaplain for life. A.D. 1317. fol. 149 in dors.

Page 89.

Presentation by the dean and chapter of Richard de Baac (or Baaker) to the vicarage of North Cory. A.D. 1321. fol. 156

Page 92.

A peremptory summons sent through the dean and chapter's official, Richard de Baaker, vicar of North Cory, to the abbot of Athelney to attend at a chapter where secret and important matters are to be discussed. A.D. 1327. fol. 166 in dors.

Page 93.

The dean and chapter have sold to Alice, widow of W. Gyan, the custody of all the lands which he held in North Cory on military tenure, and the maritagium of her son Robert. A.D. 1321. fol. 169 in dors.

Page 100.

Presentation by the dean and chapter of John de Tanton to the vicarage of North Cory. 1328. fol. 189

Final concord made between John de Bello Campo[1] de Somerset, knight, and dean John de Godolee about the manor of Knappe. John de Bello Campo is son and heir of the lady Cecilia de Bello Campo. Hamelin de Godelee is brother of dean John de Godelee.

Details of the agreement.

Page 104.

Richard de Thystleton, treasurer, and Walter de Hull, subdean, to John, vicar of North Cory, and W. de Lavelye, vicar in Wells, concerning certain scandals in North Cory. Walter le Eyr, Adam le Eyr, Robert de Spycer, and John Jolyf of Sowy, together with certain accomplices, in Feb., A.D. 1337, assaulted Robert Gyan, a clerk, knowing that he was a clerk, "et in possessione clericatus," in the presence of William de fol. 201 in dors.

1. Or Beauchamp.

Littleton the precentor, Robert de Baldok and John de Wamberg, canons, and many more clerks and laymen, in contempt of God, the church, yea even of humanity and to the peril of their souls through the excommunication pronounced by a canon on the occasion.

All this being notorious the offenders are to be cited to appear and answer for their conduct before the dean and chapter on a day to be appointed. April 6, A.D. 1338.

Page 105.

fol. 204 The dean and chapter summon John Abbe of North Cory parish to answer for his having appropriated all the tithes of Lillesdon and Mere for the year 1337, estimated at £20. The said John is a notorious enemy. Because the amount of the said tithes do not form a fourth part of the goods of the parish church we cannot proceed against the said John. . . . in "foro ecclesie per viam notorii, ex officio nos velle procedere protestamus." The dean and chapter therefore command their officials canon Robert de Baldok and William de Lanelee, vicar in Wells, that if they can find him and approach him with safety, they are to serve him with a citation in person, if not, then to serve him at his domicile in the parish, if this cannot be done with safety, then it may be published in the parish church, if this is not safe, then in the cathedral at Wells, according to the constitutions of the archbp. and bps., "zelari oporteat, etc.,"[1] lately put forth, etc., March 13, 1388.

fol. 204 in dors. The assault upon Robert Gyan at North Cory, as on fol. 201 in dors.

Commission to enquire into the matter.

Page 114.

fol. 253 in dors. Convocation, Sept. 26, A.D. 1365. Present: the dean, etc., and many others. It was ordered amongst other things:

14. That the dean consider the subject of the re-

1. The opening words of a constitution.

pairs of Knapp mill and the appropriation of certain houses which support two obits.[1]

19. That £100 of the monies received during this year from the church manors be allotted "ad instaurandum manerium de Cory cum vaccis et porcis."[2]

20. That an enquiry be made about the foss between the lands of the earl of Sarum and the Church's lands at Cory.

21. That Walter de Cory shall pay for his offence in carrying away oak trees out of the park of Stoke 6*s* 8*d*. to the use of the fabric, and shall appear at the next court holden at Cory, and give security to the amount of seven marcs to be paid "in casu quod se male gerit."[3] The dean is to warn him that he behave himself well, "sub pena excommunicationis primo, secundo et tertio, et in virtute juramenti sui, alias in hac parte, etc."[4] To this Walter assents.

Page 116.

23. That the common pastures be not allowed to the tenants of Hamme until the King's charter about Cory has been received and the matter has been further considered. fol 254

Page 117.

Bond for £100 from Hugh Tancy of North Cory to the dean and chapter for expenses and damages at North Cory. fol. 256

Page 118.

The chapel of S. Mary in the cemetery at North Cory, lately held by John de Stanwegg, is given by the dean and chapter to William May, A.D. 1372. fol. 257 in dors.

Jan. 14. On the same day the seneschal[5] is ordered to ride to North Cory to learn how and how far the tenants are injured by the new purchase of land. fol. 258

1. Funeral services—masses on anniversary of death.

2. Stocking the manor of North Curry with cows and pigs.

3. In case he should behave ill.

4. Under penalty of excommunication, first, second, and third, and in virtue of his oath otherwise in this part, etc.

5. Steward.

fol. 258 in dors. Final concord made between certain men of North Cory concerning a mill and messuage. A.D. 1351 and 53.

Page 120.

fol. 265 The chapter consent to an exchange between W. May, priest of the chapel of North Cory, and John Porter, rector of Olleworth (? Closworth).

Page 122.

fol. 275 The chapter to the bishop begging for his goodwill in certain suits in which they are engaged at North Cory.

Presentation by the chapter (the dean is absent) of William Aylward to the chantry at North Cory, A.D. 1379.

Instructions from the chapter to their official at North Cory to institute the said W. Aylward.

Page 123.

fol. 277 in dors. Commission issued by the bishop to the abbots of Mochelnye and Athelnye, the prior of Tanton, the perpetual vicars of North Cory (Tanton ?) Crick, and Lenge, and to my lords Thomas Newman, John Baryngton, and Philip de Erdesleigh, vicars in the Cathedral, and Chaplains in the Chapel of Stoke and Westhache. Inasmuch as certain persons unknown have taken many fish in the River commonly called Tone within the manor of North Cory, to the prejudice of the Chapter of Wells to whom it belongs, to the peril of their own souls, and to the encouragement of evil doers. Wherefore "vobis[1] . . . . mandamus quatinus omnes et singulos temeratores hujusmodi . . . . . necnon eisdem prebentes auxilium . . . . . in

1. "We command you as to all and singular daring persons of this kind, also those affording them assistance, that they incur the just sentence of the greater excommunication, and they have been and are bound by it in aforesaid monasteries, chapels, etc., on several Lord's days and festivals between the solemnities of mass when the most number of the clergy and people are present with cross erect in hand and bells ringing, candles lighted, and for censure of evil doers of this kind at last cast on the ground and extinguished, etc."

debitam majoris excommunicationis sententiam incidisse et ea ligatos fuisse et esse in monasteriis . . . . capellis, etc., antedictis, singulis diebus dominicis et festis inter missarum solemnia cum major affuerit in eisdem cleri et populi multitudo, cruce in manu erecta, pulsatis campanis, candelis accensis et in vituperium hujusmodi reproborum in terram demum projectis et extinctis, cum omni qua decet solempnitate adhibita, publice denunciatis et faciatis simili modo per alios publice et solempniter denunciari a denunciatione hujusmodi non cessantes donec aliud a nobis reciperitis in mandatis."

They are to report what they have done, giving the names of the culprits if they can be found. Given at Dogmersfield, March 24, A.D. 1379.

Indenture made Feb. 15, Anno Regis Ric[i] 3°. fol. 278 in dors.

Peter de Yevelton had claimed against the dean and chapter rights of hunting, fowling, fishing, and common pasture, in their manors of North Cory, Westhache, and Knappe, as belonging to Mere[1] which he holds under them. He also claims "quoddam gestum quolibet anno in die Natali Domini de ipsis D. et C. in corum camera apud North Cory."[2]

An agreement is made by which the said Peter retains the rights of pasture and the Christmas feast, and resigns all other claims.

Page 124.

Inspex. by William the prior of St. Swithin's, Winchester, of an Inspex. by John bishop of Winton of the charter of king Richard, granting to the dean and chapter of Wells the manor of North Cory, etc. fol. 280 in dors.

The charter is recited at length, A.D. 1290.

Page 127.

The dean and chapter appoint Master Lambert fol. 289

1. ? Meare Court at West Hatch.

2. Relates probably to the claim he has in relation to the reeve's feast. "Such food as he may wish every year at Christmas time from the dean and chapter in their court at North Curry."

More to act for them for one year in their suit against certain persons at North Cory. Sept. 24, A.D. 1385.

End of Liber Alb. I.

Liber Ruber II.

Page 143.

fol. 7 A.D. 1487, April 18. The dean and chapter and the abbot of Athelney agree to submit their differences about land in North Cory to the decision of two ecclesiastics and two laymen.

Page 144.

ol. 10 May 24. The dean and chapter bind themselves to pay the third of the rent of a mill at North Cory to the exors. of R. Swan late prepositus.[1]

Page 145.

fol. 114 A letter missyve sent to my lord of Wynchester,[2] by the Brethren of Chapitre. Right reverend fader in God and to us moste singuler gode lord in our mooste humble wyse we recommende us. Please it the same to understande howe that dyverse of the Bretheren of our Chapitre were with your officers at our myll of Northcory and ther hard the gretes and complayntes which your tennants made, and wher as it is thought by theym that our said myll shulde be the occasion of the grete floods and drowning of the medews which in our mynde was not thought possible to be. Nevertheless to have you good lord unto us as ye have ever been and also to cesse theyr clamours we shalbe contented to lose a quarter Rent. And for that time to cause the floodgats of our said myll to be pulled up, so that the water shall have his full course, whereby it shal appere hereafter whether that our myll be the occasion of eny suche floods and drownynge of the medews. And as for bote passage your said

1. A provost, a constable or reeve.

2. The bishop of Winchester held the lands above Ham Mills, and from the time of Domesday held the large manor of Taunton.

officers knowe right well that in all the said season the water was so lowe and so many shelpes and bayes in the ryver betweene our myll and Taunton that it was not possible to convey eny bote that way. And in the wynter season the medews be so filled and replenyshed with water that the boots may go over at every place so that they shal not be lett by the myll. My Lord these things considered we trust that ye wull contynue as good lord nowe unto us as ye have been be former tyme. And thus the holy Trinite contynue you accordyng to your noble desires.

ffrom Wells iiiith day of November.

By your dayly oratours the bretheren of the Chapitre of Wells.

Page 146.

A letter from the chapter to the prior of Montacute, informing him of the complaints made to the bishop of Winchester against "our mill and your miller," and of the proposal which they have made as above. fol. 115

A letter from dean W. Cousyn to the chapter. fol. 116 in dors.
Right honourable bretheren I recommende me unto you certifying you that according to your mynds concluded in the Chapitre I have spoken with my Lord of Winchester for our myll and have moved hym both with resons and prayers to be good lord unto us for the said myll but in noo wyse I can not have his lordshipp at no conclusion but that he will have downe the bay of stone made by the prior. And at one season he said he would be content to Remytt his action but he wold have a commission of sheywers by the reason whereof he said he was sure to have his mynde. And after my porre mynde it were better to putt the matter into gentilmens hands than to laborying men of the cuntrey for they do speke upon will and make a grete clamour without reason as ye may knowe opynly by the copy of a bill the which I send you by my servant, the which my lord of Winchester toke me to rede and I in the moste haste I cowde make caused it to be wrytten and gave xxx^{d}

therfore to thentente ye shulde knowe the complaynte, and also the doblenesse of the prior of Mountacu or ells of his tennants. Wherfor after this my writyng with the copy of the complaynte I pray you send me your mynde howe ye wold I shuld doo and whedder I shuld conclude uppon a commission of the sheywers or upon gentilmen of the cuntry to the which I thynk it wilbe hard to be brought. And as towchyng the openyng of the floode gats as yet I cannot bryng his lordshipp to apply therto for he seith that he will not beleve his trusty counsell in saying nay, and me nor none of us in saying soo. Wherfor in this matter I pray you send me your mynds and the best I can doo possible I shal do. And if I may I shal cause hym to bee content to prove the experyence of the plukking up of the floodegats, but as yet I can not have hym at no conclusion nor I thynk shal not tyll the season mayster ffroste be come to London. The which was not come as this day at nyght at the whych season I spake with my lord of Wynchester as God knoweth who preserve you. Wrytten at London the xiiith day of November with the hand of your brother William Cousyn Deane of Wells.

I pray you kepe the copy of these complaynts as secretely as ye can for if it were knowen that I did copy theym it mygte peraventure turne to my rebuke.

fol. 117 in dors. The chapter answer that if their proposal for pulling up the floodgates is not accepted, that they are willing that the bishop may at his own will decide whether the matter shall be settled by sheywers or by certain gentilmen of the country. There have been great floods as there have been time out of mind but no drowning of the country. Nov. 18.

fol. 118 The bill of the complaint addressed by the tenants of the tithing of Ruysshton to the bishop of Winchester.

Page 147.

fol. 118 in dors. A similar complaint from the men of Taunton. Time out of mind they have had free passage upon the water of Toon, Bathepole myll and Brigewater

for all manner of merchandise, until the building of Ham myll. This is now stopped and in default of this in the winter season we can have no carriage the ways be soo foundered by overflowing of the water, and that is "better chepe by 11*s.* than the cariage is to cary by land."

The piteous complaint of the tenants near the mill. fol. 119

A report made to the bishop of Winchester. Printed in "Wells Cathedral," etc., p. 218. fol. 120

Letter from Mr. Beamont, archdeacon of Wells, to the chapter, A.D. 1506. fol. 126

After due recommendation. So it is that uppon Monday the last day of Aprill Mr. Deane and I spake with my lord of Wynchestre. The cause why we spake with him no sooner was for his being at his Manier of Assher, wher he gave ordres on passion Sonday eve. When we hadde moved hym in suche maters as we come for we found hym somewhate roughe saying that he was dyvers tymes mysenformed by us. And that the King on his oon part partie suffred wrong by reason of the stopping of his commyn streme, and also that his tenants were grevously hurt by the reson of our myll, with as soft manner and word as we cowde pacified his mynde for the tyme. The morne after we were with hym agenn and then he showed us howe it was reason for hym as well to give credence unto his counsell as to us, and that he wolde speke with theym in the cause. Nevertheless he gave us gentil and kind words lyke a nobleman, but as yet we have not our finall answer. Ye wolde wondre what causes he hathe to do and therefore we muste abyde his leyser.

As to Mr. Hatton we have not as yet spoken with hym but have dyverse tymes sought hym, and also made messyngers unto hym, which have spoken with hym. And as we can understand he proposeth to couple us with the King's counsell in this matur, which we wolle avoyde and if we can to the best of our powers. We have moved my lord of Wynchestre in this cause and he will not moche mell theryn be-

cause it toucheth the King, hys mynde is we shulde not be hasty upon the said Doctor Hatton but to take hym at times convenyent and to handle him as wysley as we can. We have in likewyse made serche in the Chancery for the ammortysment of Alverton and as yet we cannot fynd it. The VI clerks of the said Chauncerye be so besyed in the King's causes that they can attend no pore men yet. I assure you by ther licence Humfrey my servant hadd a sight of oon boke ab anno VI° Henrici sexti usque annum XVIII ejusdem. Ye must pardon us thoughe we can make no perfite answere to you at this tyme. And thus our Lord spede both you and us. Written at London this ffriday third of Aprile. Your brother Thomas Beaumont.

Page 149.

fol. 140 Letter from the chapter to John ffitz James the elder or to his son in his absence, April 16, A.D. 1507.

After dewe recommendations. It is not unknowen to you of the commission which ye were named to set uppon at Taunton for the matier betweene my lord privy seal and us towchyng our myll at North Cory, ye knawe also right well that at the tyme of your syttlyng ther was neyther verdyte opynly geven not yet sentence orderyd by you nor by the other commissioners, but that both ye and they at that tyme weir contentyd to take respyte in the same matier.

The chapter then thank him for the favour then shown to their brother, John Edmunds, and inform him that they now understand that a scire facias has been directed by the Sherive on the authority of Mr. ffroste alone, "wherof with muche peyne we have gottyn withyn these three or foure days." They ask for his opinion and advice.

fol. 143 Letter from John Prior of Montague to the chapter. The archdeacon and steward of Wells had been to "our pore place" to have friendly communication about the mill. The prior had made no direct answer then because he had not taken advice, but had sent answer shortly afterwards by the prior of Kerswell. And appointment had been made for a meeting at

Cory, "and thidder I came," but the chapter did not keep the appointment, and the matter was put off until May 1st, in order that Mr. Mylles might look into it. He desires to know what they think best to be done. Written on Sonday.

The chapter's answer to the last. They intend "to pull up suche thyngs as we be commaunded to doo by the Kyng's commaundment." fol. 143 in dors.

Page 150.

The chapter to Richard Philips under Shereffe of Somerset. Given at Wells on Wytsonday in haste. A.D. 1507. fol. 144

They have obeyed the writ to remove the building made in the water of Tone, and beg him to come and inspect the place.

End of Liber Ruber II.

Liber Albus III.

Page 152.

Confirmatio bonorum Eccle: per Rogerum Epm. They consist of the manor and church and hundred of Northcury; with the land of Hach and Wrentisse by the grant of king Richard, etc. fol. 4

Page 155.

Carta Regis Richard de Northcory. Cf. I, fol. 9. fol. 25

Charter of John de eodem, cf. I, fol. 9. fol. 25 in dors.

Page 156.

Charter of Stephen de Eccl. Northcory et Perreton, cf. I, fol. 11. fol. 26

Theobold archiep. de eisdem. fol. 26 in dors.

Charter of Savaric de eisdem.

Carta de deafforestatione Northcory.

Confirm. by the prior of S. Swythen, etc.

fol. 27 in dors. Carta regis Edwardi de libera Warenna in North cory, Stoke et Hache.
Given at Wynton, Dec. 24, Anno Regni 8°

Carta regis E. concessa decanus et capitulum quod possint assignare centum acras more Abbati Athelynguy.
Teste me ipso apud Westm., July 12, anno regni 4°

fol. 28 Charter of John de Northcory, cf. I, fol. 10.

fol. 29 Quieta clamantia Margerie de Stoke de . . . . terris in Northcory concess. decano et cap.

Convention concerning the same between Sibilla, daughter of Simon de la Slo, nephew of Margeria de Stoke and the dean and chapter.

Convention between the dean and chapter and Margeria de Stoke. Test. John de Aura, Ric. Tregoz vicar of Northcory, Adam de Meridon, Robt. de Meridon, Rog. de la Slo, Hugh Pymor, etc. A.D. 1247.

fol. 29 in dors. Charter of Thomas de Gynerny, son and heir of Roger de Gynerny the second to Edward the dean, etc., granting lands in Northcory que aliquando fuerint Cristine filie Thome de Bononia proave mee. Test. Phil. de Button, etc., etc.

fol. 30 Carta Walteri le ffrie de homagio etc. Rici Butel in Northcory.

Charter of Richard le ffrie de terris in North cory.

The dean and chapter and R. Gyan de Husbote, cf. I, fol. 62.

fol. 30 in dors. The dean and chapter to W. Gyan de messuagio in Stokes, cf. I, fol. 62. A.D. 1264.

Page 157.

Scriptum Henrici fil.: et hered.: Henrici fil.: Ingulfi factum decano et capitulum de terra Lamleg apud Stoke et una acra in Garstone apud North cory. July 5, A.D. 1233.

Will. Sylven and Rad.: Abbe de quadam manucaptione . . . pro terra in Meridone. Mentions William, son of the late Adam de Meridon and Ascelina widow of Adam. Test. the knights John de Acton, Walter de Ortiaco; and Ric. de Kam, Galfr de la Slo, Thomas de Mere, Robt. Gyan, etc. fol. 31

Agreement come to between the prior, etc., of Montacute and the dean and chapter about a certain pasture called Westhaymore in Northcory manor. Test. Gilbert de Bere, Robt. Gyan, Hugo de la Hele, John de Knappe, etc. Given at Wells, May 14, A.D. 1303. fol. 31 in dors. fol. 32

Agreement come to between the abbot of Athelyng and the dean and chapter about certain pastures. The abbey yield to the dean and chapter certain lands lying next to those of John de Aura, and they give to the abbey a meadow in Leng.

Indenture between abbot Robert of Athelney and the dean and chapter about certain pastures, etc., in Northcory manor, etc. A.D. 1263. fol. 32 in dors.

Carta Roberti abbati et conv. Atheling; de 80 acris alneti[1] in mora de Northcory, receptis a decano et capitulam in compensationem unius batellate busci quam annuatim singulis diebus capere consuevimus in dicta mora sua de Stadmore passim ubi nobis placuit a festo S. Michael usque ad Hokeday sequentes Blestiatum et katia de herbagio predictarum acrarum, etc. Given in mora de Stadmore, Sept. 11, A.D. 1250. fol. 33

Another agreement between the same about certain rights in the moor. A.D. 1327. fol. 34

Agreement made before the justiciaries, Gilbert de Preston, etc., at Ivelcestre, between John Golafre and fol. 34 in dors.

1. Concerning 80 acres of alders in the moor of North Curry received from dean and chapter in compensation one boatload of brushwood, which annually on certain days we were accustomed to take in his said moor of Stadmore wherever it pleased us, from the feast of St. Michael unto Hockeday following (Blestiatim?) et (Hatea?) from the pasture of the aforesaid acres.

NOTE.—Hockeday was a day of feasting and mirth formerly held in England to celebrate the destruction of the Danes by Ethelred.

the dean and chapter about certain pasture rights in Wrentichford (Wrantage).

In oct. S. Joh[s] Bapt. anno regni H. fil Joh[s] 40°

fol. 35 Charter of Hugh Gundevill concerning the lands called *Hunniland* in Northcory quas malo consilio de ecclesia de Cury subtraxi.[1] Test. John de Bathon, etc.

Page 158.

fol. 37 Charter of Walter le Hundred to Edward the dean and to the chapter of a piece of land in Northcory called *Fotacre.*

fol. 37 in dors. Scriptum decanus et capitulum factum in modum indenture inter eos et Galfr de la Slo about an acre of land in Northcory, A.D. 1280.

fol. 38 Convention between the lady Matill., relict of Odo de Wandestreo and the dean and chapter. At her earnest request the dean and chapter allow her to have a chaplain to celebrate in the chapel newly built at Stade[2] in the parish of Northcory, who shall first swear due obedience to the dean and chapter and that he will not receive any oblation which may be due to Northcory church or Stoke chapel Divine service in the said chapel is to be suspended whenever the lady M. is absent from Stade, and altogether from the very day of her decease. Her heir acquires no rights from this concession. It is sworn to by the lady and by Oliver Avenel.

fol. 38 in dors. Charter of Roger Huzet to the dean and chapter about lands at *Hunteham* and *Meridon.* Mentions his uncle, Robert de Stokes.

Ordinatio Vicarie de Northcury. Richard de Tregoz the vicar is to have all the vicarial tithes great and small[3] preter garbas cujuscumque bladi sive in

1. Which by bad counsel were taken from the church of Cury.

2. This is elsewhere mentioned as the chapel of St. James, Stathe.

3. Except sheaves of all kinds of corn, whether in enclosure or in open field, and except a tenth of mills . . . fisheries . . . hay . . . tithes from courts.

orto sive in agro, et preter decimas molendinorum . . . piscariarum . . . feni . . . decimas de curiis, A.D. 1234.

Final concord entered into before the justiciaries, Robert de Brywes, John de Bire, etc., at Ivelchestre (Ilchester) a die S. Trinitatis in xv dies, A.D. 1263, between the dean and chapter and Galfrid de Scoland and Richard de Waleys, concerning lands in Northcory. fol. 39

Scriptum[1] decanus et capitulum factum Ricardo de la Well et Cecilie uxori de sex solidatis et octo denarratis redditus in Northcory, A.D. 1307. fol. 39 in dors.

Submission of W. Colne that he has wrongfully destroyed the watercourse to the mill at Knappe.[2] Et ad majorem securitatem premissorum Willm. Gyan et Willm. Bostel inveni manucaptores, A.D. 1317. fol. 40

Submissio Willelmi Gyan.

Submissio Willelmi Bostel.

Final concord entered into at the same date and place as the last and before the same justiciaries, only that John de Bire is now written John de Aure, between the dean and chapter and John de Aure, about rights in Northcory, A.D. 1263. fol. 40 in dors. fol. 41

Order of the king's court in favour of dean and chapter against Robert the abbot of Athelnye, Elyas Spelly, and Richard Brice, with regard to certain pastures in the moor, A.D. 1386. fol. 41 in dors.

A similar order against John Beauchamp de Lillesdon, knight.

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Composition between the dean and chapter and John the abbot of Athelney, as to certain rents and fol. 45 fol. 45 in dors.

1. Writing made between dean and chapter and Richard of Wells and Cecilia his wife, of six shillings and eightpence rent in N. C.

2. And as greater security of these premises Willm. Gyan and Willm. Bostel became bail.

lands in Northcory, made at the instigation of Peter de Courtenay, knight.

fol. 46 Test. Peter Courtenay, etc., etc.
Given at Northcory, June 9, A.D. 1394.

fol. 47 Composition between the dean and chapter and John de Cnappe of Northcury, concerning certain mill rights, A.D. 1370.

Composition between the dean and chapter and William Beauchamp, lord of the half of the manor of
fol. 47 in dors. Lillesdone and Stathe, concerning fishery rights in the Tone . . . et de abscissione spatularum[1] . . . crescentium in diversis moris, and pasture rights, etc.
Test. William Bonvill, Walter Rodneye, Baldwin Malett, etc., knights, John Stourton, etc., A.D. 1402.

fol. 48 Composition between the dean and chapter and John Beauchamp de Lillesdon, knight, Richard de Clyvedon, and Elyas Spelly, concerning Saltemore in Northcury.

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fol. 50 Composition between the dean and chapter and John Aura.
A long document of three pages, followed by a list of the tenants and their rents and services.

fol. 51 The list of the tenants of Newport, about forty-nine in number, no one holding more than five acres and
fol. 52 most only one, fills three pages. Joh° faber tenet[1] one daynam terre ad terminum vite sue et uxoris de regali via ex traditione domini Philippi de Odyham tunc seneschalli. Reddit per annum, 6*d.* pro omnibus servitiis, et postea levavit in eadem dayna quandam fabricam.
Summa totalis of rents at Newport, £2 10*s.* 9*d.*

1. And concerning the removal of sedge . . . . . growing in the different moors.

1. John the smith holds one plot of land to the end of his and his wife's life, by king's way, according to the statement of the lord P. de O., then being steward. He pays 6*d.* per annum for all services, and afterwards raised in the same plot a certain smith's shop.

Compositio inter decanus et capitulum et abb. de Athelnye. About fishery rights in the Tone and certain rines, pasture lands and tithes, etc., A.D. 1427. fol. 52 in dors.

Consuetudinarium tenentium (customs of tenants) eccl[e] de Northcory. fol. 55

Fols. 55 and 55 in dors are partly printed at the end of the index vol., A.D. 1876, of the Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc. *Proceedings.*

The list of tenants fills five folios.

[1]Mem. quod nullus homo de homagio predicto nisi sit liber potest habere nisi unum solum cotsette et si plures habuerit dominus habebit pro unoquoque *6d.* excepto uno. fol. 59 in dors.

Mem. quod quando aliquis de hominibus domini natavis descesserit unior filius ejus secundum consuetudinem manerii tenementum quod fuerit patris sui priusquam aliquis alius si jus ad eadem habeat ita quod satisfacit domino pro ingressu habendo in eisdem, videt, ad voluntatem domini.

Summa totalis—[2]

1. Mem: That no man of the aforesaid homage, unless he is a free man, can hold more than one cottager's holding, and if he shall hold more the lord shall have for every one, *6d.*, one excepted. Mem: That when any of the lords "native" shall die, his junior son, according to the custom of the manor, shall have the tenement or holding which was his father's before anyone else, if he had a right to the same, so that he gives satisfaction to the lord for ingress to the same, *i.e.* at the will of the lord.

Note.—The custom of the younger son succeeding to the burgage tenement on the death of his father, was in accordance with the ancient custom in boroughs called Borough-English. One reason for this was that the younger son was not so capable as the rest to help himself, and the elder sons had left the father's house to seek new habitations for themselves. The younger son had also the duty cast upon him of burying his father.—Judge Stephens, *Laws of England.*

2. To be paid at the four terms, tenants of the church, by money rent.
,, first August (Lammas Day) St. Peter's pence.
,, in feast of purification (Candlemas Day) for moor-right.
,, in feast of nativity of John the Baptist (Midsummer Day) for [?]
,, half at Easter and half at Michælmas for wood rent.

At feast of St. Martin-Church Scot of hens. Church Scot of Wheat. (Nov. 11th)

Note.—About A.D. 692, Ina, king of Wessex, visited Rome, and

Solvend: ad 4 ^{or} terminos—tenentes eccle: de gablo . . .	£4	17	11
„ ad gulam Aug—denarr: S. Petri		1	3
„ in fest: Purif:—de Moreryght .		1	5
„ in fest: Nat. B. Joh^{s} de leseselver			6
„ med: at Pasch: et med: at S. Mich:—de Wodegablo .		4	6
Solum ad festum S. Martini—Churset gallinarum . . .			40
Churset frumenti .	1 qr. 6 bus.		

fol. 60 Consuetudinarium, A.D. 1314, according to the testimony of a jury of ten, named, chosen by the whole of the homage and giving evidence on oath.

The hundredarius[1] is to receive and execute with certain assistants brevia regis,[2] etc.

He shall have 4d. for every prisoner, apud le Stochouse.[3] Also the hundredpeny de[4] quolibet homine vel garcione de hundredo intrante in assisam, etc.

His gestum at Christmas is to be two good white loaves of wheat, as much good beer as he likes to drink as long as daylight lasts, a good dish of beef with mustard, and another broweti de gallinis[5] and cheese. Enough fuel to cook his own and the allowances of the other tenants de antiquo dominico[6] is to be given, and also enough for a fire to burn before them from their first coming to dinner until the evening; after dark they are to have a further supply of

founded a Saxon school there, for the support of which it is supposed that the tax of "Rome Scot" of a penny from every householder in Wessex was now first levied; this was subsequently annually demanded by the popes from the whole kingdom, under the name of *St. Peter's pence*, and for seven centuries, with occasional interruptions, it was collected and sent to Rome. This impost was abolished by Henry VIII, A.D. 1533. Pinnock's *Analysis*.

1. Bailiff of a hundred.
2. King's writs.
3. At the prison.
4. From every man or serving man of the hundred entering the assize.
5. Fowl broth, or stewed fowl.
6. Ancient demesne.

firing and two candles de assisa ;[1] and they may sit if they please and drink so long as the two candles burning one after the other shall last.

He also has two virgates of land and pasture rights, etc.

The brevitor, whose duty it is to execute the briefs, etc., holds half a virgate and a messuage, and pays 1lb. of cummin. He must also attend the courts and serve their orders, etc. fol. 60. in dors.

Thomas de Mere has a virgate and a messuage, and he must come in white gloves and with a white rod in his hand to *Kingesmede*, to superintend the mowers and those who make the hay.

Simon de Domerham must serve in like manner.

Tenentes in villenagio. fol. 61 in dors.

Robert de la Chambre, the tenant of a half virgate among other services, must come with his rod in hand to superintend the mowing and haymaking at *Kingesmede*, which is estimated to last for two days, and also the making of the mow. fol. 62.

He must serve as prepositus[2] or berebritt.[3]

The berebritt has all allowances the same as the prepositus, save only the keep of a horse.

W. Brygge, tenant of one ferdel,[4] must bring his own napkin, cup and dish to the Christmas dinner, and may carry away in his napkin anything that is left. fol. 63

And moreover he shall have for himself and his neighbours one wastell,[5] divided into three parts, to play with at the old Christmas games.

"I wastellum in tres partes cissum ad antiquos ludos natales cum dicto wastello ludendos." If he is impleaded in the king's court about his land, "adjudicabitur per 12 juratores,"[6] as Robert de la Chambra

1. Of a fixed measure.

2. A provost, constable, or reeve.

3. The Saxon name for the keeper of the granary. This probably is identical with "the dealer," mentioned in the later reeve's feast document.

4. An eighth of a yard—land

5. Wastelbread—a fine sort of white bread.

6. He shall be judged by twelve jurymen.

(fol. 61 in dors) "adjudicabitur per pares, ut in alio placito."[1]

William the smith holds one ferdel, makes the iron work of two carts, the iron and coals to be found by the lord, and shoes the lord's horse, "ad pedes anteriores."[2]

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fol. 69 in dors. Consuetudinarium[3] manerii de Hacche.

fol. 70 Amongst other services the villanus faciet domino unam cladem ad faldam de palis et virgis domini quas colliget et habebit suum averocum, viz. 30 virgas cissas pro clade, valoris quar : ultra reprisam.

fol. 71. Habebit gentaculum viz. panem et caseum.

The value of the manor of Hacche is £16 15s. $3\frac{1}{2}$d.

fol. 79 Charter of Walter de Cadamo to dean John de Godilee of the manor of Knappe, A.D. 1306.

Many parcels of land and their tenants are named.

fol. 81 Final concord between John de Godelee, Hamelin de Godelee, whose agent is Elyas de Godelee, and Walter de Cadamo, about the manor of Knappe, A.D. 1306.

Carta[4] regis Edwardi de licentia ingrediendi Manerum de Knappe to Hamelin de Godeley on behalf of the chapter, notwithstanding the Statute of Mortmain.

Teste me ipso apud Lanercost Jan. 22 anno regni 34°

Carta[5] H senioris de terra de Cnappe data in escamb : pro terra de Whiteham quam illi de Charthous tenent.

Grants to Gilbert de Norfolk 8 liberate[6] of land in

1. He shall be judged by his equals as in another plea.

2. The fore feet only (which was usually the custom at this period).

3. Customs of the manor of Hatch. This refers to the liability of the villain providing hurdles for fencing for the lord.

4. Charter of king Edward concerning licence of ingress to the manor of Knapp.

5. Charter of Henry I concerning land in Knapp given in exchange.

6. A liberate of land—four ox gangs or fifty-two acres.

Northcory in exchange for the land in Little Witham which the king has given to the bretheren Chartosa to be held by him of Gilbert Malet on the same terms as he held the land in Whiteham, viz., etc., etc.

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Charter of W. de Cadamo to John de Godelee de redditibus[1] et servitiis, etc., de Knappe, A.D. 1306. fol. 82

Charter of Walter Caam of Cnappe to Will atte fferthyng about lands at Chaldewell in Cnappe. fol. 86 in dors.

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Agreement between dean and chapter and John de *Murdene* about some pastures in North Cury moors. fol. 202 in dors

Test: John de Bello Campo, Hugh de Popham, etc. A.D. 1311. fol. 203

Charter of dean and chapter to Hugh de la Hele. Cf. I, fol. 18.

Letter by the dean and chapter to their bailiff at North Cory, Walter de Cnolton, to give possession to Hugh. A.D. 1284.

The dean and chapter sell to Cecelia, widow of Hugh atte Hele, the custody, etc., of their son Ralph, and of his lands; Alicia was Hugh's mother, and the lands came from her. 10 E. III. fol. 203 in dors

Quit claim by John, son of Mabilia Roweles, to Hugh de la Hele, of a messuage and certain services in North Cory. 24 E.

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Charter of Robert Gyan of Bristol: gives to Robert, son and heir of William Gyan, and to Cristina his wife, a messuage, *windmill*, and all his lands in North Cory, a moor, etc., in *Chereleyestath*, etc., with the reversion of all lands which had been the dowry of Matilda, wife of Robert, grandfather of the said Robert Gyan, etc. fol. 205

Given at *Chereleye*, July 16, A.D. 1339.

1. Rents and services

Charter of Margerie at Sloo gives to three of the canons certain small rents, etc., in North Cory, A.D. 1385.

Grant by Walter the dean and the chapter to Walter le Eyr and to the first wife whom he shall marry, for their lives, of certain lands in North Cory. A.D. 1347.

Release to the dean and chapter by Thomasia daughter of Robt. le Whyte de Knappe, of all claims to certain properties in North Cory. A.D. 1363.

fol. 206 in dors. Grant by dean and chapter to Richard de Acton, knight, in return for benefits received, of certain pastures in North Cory. A.D. 1355.

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fol. 207 Letter of William Gyan about houses and rents in North Cory. Test. Richard the succentor,[1] Henry Hyngolf hundredarius de Northcory, Adam de Merydon, Robert de Merydon, etc.

fol. 207 in dors. Agreement between the dean and chapter and William Bussel and Agneta his wife about certain pastures in Northcory. Given at Wells.

Test, John de Bello Campo, Hugo de Popham, knights, etc. March 15, A.D. 1311.

Receipt for four marcs given by Robt. Gyan. A.D. 1286.

fol. 208 in dors. Charter of Thomas Payn and Richard Craddok to Margerie atte Sloo. A.D. 1375.

fol. 209 Charter of Walter de Kam granting to Roger de Stokelinche and to Agneta who was the wife of Richard Bussel, the custody of the lands which the said Richard held of him at *la Hill* in North Cory, and of their son and heir Adam.

fol. 209 in dors. Agreement between dean and chapter and Robert de Somerton. He is to have the lands, etc., lately held on military tenure by William Colne of North

1. Assistant to the armarius (librarian) in a monastery.

Cory of the dean and chapter until the heir of the said William is of age. The said Robert must keep all houses and fences in repair, etc., and pay £7 10*s.* 0*d.* April 20, A.D. 1333.

Hugh, son of Hugh atte Hele of Northcory, has been absent from the county of Somerset for some time, and the dean and chapter have dealt with and cultivated his lands in Northcory as has seemed fit to them. He now yields to them all the fruits which they have received from the day of his departure until the day of the execution of this deed. Given at Northcory on Wednesday next after the feast of SS. Tiburtius and Valerian. 8 E. fol. 210.

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Final concord between the dean and chapter and Robert de Columbariis about two carucates[1] of land at Hacche. The dean and chapter pay ten marcs to Robert. A.D. 1247.

Indenture between the dean and chapter and John de Troubrigge, vicar of Northcory. A.D. 1355. fol. 210 in dors.

The dean and chapter augment the vicarage with certain lands, and give coppice wood annually as an endowment for a chantry. The vicar is to pay one rose annually on the Nativity of S. John the Bapt: and shall during the term of his life celebrate or cause to be celebrated a mass every Wednesday and Friday, if a duplex festum shall not fall upon those days, and if the lord or lady of Lillesdone shall be present, for whose good estate and for whose souls the said chantry is established. If a duplex festum falls upon those days the mass is to be celebrated on the morrow. If that day shall also be a duplex festum, then only a memoria shall be said on the Wednesday or Friday itself. The lord of Lillesdone shall at his own expense provide a chaplain and all things necessary for the mass, pane per dictum vicarium quotiens opus fuerit ministrando dumtaxat excepto.

1. A plough land: a team of oxen sufficient to work a carucate, *i.e.* eight—150 acres.

fol. 211. The chaplain who is to say the mass or memoria dominum vel dominam de Lillesdone ultra completam horam diei primam ibidem expectare minime teneatur, then he may depart without celebrating, but if he is celebrating elsewhere during the day he shall bear in mind those souls for whom the chantry is established. Test. John de Somerton, John atte Sloo, Thomas Cnappe, W. Hacche, etc.

fol. 211 in dors. William Parle parochianus[1] ecclesie de Northcory, confesses that he has taken certain tithes garbarum[2] which belong to the rectors, and mixed them with others and thereby has ipso facto incurred excommunication. He is penitent, makes restitution, and prays for reconciliation. A.D. 1335.

fol. 212. On Friday, Nov. 10, the said William signed the above in the house of canon John de Wamberg, custodian of the deanery during vacancy.

Indenture between the dean and chapter and Hugh Cancy of Northcory. The said Hugh gives a bond of £100 as security that he will pay the expenses of the suit instituted against him by the dean and chapter, and as damages for trespassing on their rights of fishery in the Tone and elsewhere in North Cory, etc. April 18, A.D. 1367.

fol. 213 Robert Gyan, a layman of Northcory, is summoned before the dean and chapter to answer the charge of having wilfully cut down their timber and beaten their servants. He appears, has no defence to offer, and his offence having been notorious and of ill example he is excommunicated. But afterwards having made his submission and taken an oath to abstain from injury and to support the dean and chapter's rights, he is ordered to restore within two months the timber to the value of £10 publickly to the place whence he took it; he shall also tribus[3] vicibus circa ecclesiam

1. A parishioner (or parish priest) of the church.

2. Of sheaves.

3. Three times on three Sundays within or during the aforesaid two months let him be whipped around the church of North Curry,

de Northcory per tres dies dominicas infra duos menses predictos, et tribus vicibus circa ecclesiam Wellensem per alios tres dies dominicas ante processionem nudus preter femoralia fustigeter, deferens in manibus suis unum cereum illuminatum ponderis unius libre singulis diebus quibus penetentiam fecerit supradictam, et illum teneat manibus suis propriis in navibus predictarum ecclesiarum a tempore processionum factarum quousque dicatur seu selebretur offertorium et tunc ad magnum altare earundem ecclesiarum personaliter accedat et illum cereum offerat humiliter missam celebranti, et statim tam celebrans quam ipse penitencie causam et oblationis hujus coram clero et populo in lingua materna omnibus intelligibili publice distincte et apte dicant et exponant.

The said Robert Gyan shall give satisfaction to Robert Coppe, the servant whom he assaulted, to the amount of forty shillings; and for the ecclesiastical offence, he shall again be whipped around the said churches other six Sundays, and make an offering of a wax candle as aforesaid.

For damages by poaching he is to pay eight marcs, and for the ecclesiastical offence go through the same course of discipline for another six Sundays. He is forbidden by himself or his agents to enter upon any of the properties of the dean and chapter without permission, or to aid or abet those who do so, etc. He is also to give a bond for £20. He shall also take oath to the observance of all these conditions, and shall appear in public in the cathedral, and shall pray that he may be bound to obey all these conditions, and

and three times around the church of Wells on other three Sundays before the procession, naked except his trowsers, carrying in his hands one lighted candle of a pound in weight every day on which he undergoes the aforesaid penance, and hold in his hands in the naves of the churches aforesaid from the time of the processions until it is stated whether the offertory is celebrated, and then let him approach the high altar of the same churches and offer the wax candle humbly to the celebrant of the masses, and shall forthwith, celebrant as well as himself, penitently, publicly, distinctly, and suitably declare and explain in the mother tongue before clergy and people the reason of the penance.

shall give his consent that a sentence of excommunication shall be pronounced against him if he offend in the future, etc.

Given at Wells, July 5, A.D. 1337, and sealed by the said R. Gyan.

fol. 213 Indenture made 4 E. II. between the dean and chapter and John de Acton, Hugh de Bello Campo and Idonea his wife, etc., about pastures and alder beds, etc., in Stathmore.

fol. 214 in dors. Charter of Walter Portefer, granting to John Atte Sloo, his wife Marjorie, and their son John, a burgage[1] and a half at Newport. A.D. 1350.

fol. 215 A list of separable meadows and common lands, etc., in North Cory, Hacche, Knappe.

Letter of Hugh de la Wyche to Robert Gyan that he has granted to Hugh de la Hele a rent of 1½d., etc. A.D. 1286.

fol. 215 in dors. Similar letter of the same that he has made a grant to the same of the custody of land in Huntsham, during the minority of Adam, son and heir of Richard Buste', or if he die a minor, until the majority of his brother William.

Test. William de Thorne, Galfrid de la Sloo, Thomas de Mere, etc.

Charter of the same granting to the same a rent of 1½d. in North Cory, etc.

fol. 216 Charter of Mabilia Rowles of North Cory, granting to Hugh de la Hele and Alice his wife, a messuage, etc., in North Cory. A.D. 1296.

Charter of Walter Portifer, granting to Rd. Craddock and Nich. Mansel Clerk, a burgage in North Cory. A.D. 1371.

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fol. 217 Bond for the repayment of a loan of £20 to the

1. A dwelling house in a borough.

dean and chapter by William Colne of North Cory. A.D. 1324.

Settlement of questions which have arisen between the dean and chapter and Hugh de Bello Campo and Idonea his wife, about a chantry of three days in the week at S. Martin's chapel, in Lillesdon, and about water rights, etc. fol. 217 in dors.

The dean and chapter will build two bridges. A.D. 1317.

Certificate of John Copleston, sheriff of Somerset, that the dean and chapter have certain pastures in Saltmore, about which there has been a suit with the abbey of Athelney, Elias Spelly, and Richard Brice, and that he gave them possession on June 7, A.D. 1386, in the presence, etc. fol. 218

Charter of Roger de Molis, granting to Hugh de la Hele the custody of the lands of William de Insula, in Stathe, during his minority. fol. 218 in dors.

Indenture between dean and chapter and Peter of Yevelton Cofyn, nephew and heir of Thomas de Somerton, about tenements in North Cory. A.D. 1362.

Agreement made between the dean and chapter and the lady Idonea de Beauchamp and Henry de Lillesdone to the same effect as on fol. 211. fol. 219

Charter of Richard Collake granting to Hugh de la Hele and Alice his wife an acre, etc., in *Scherpham*. fol. 219 in dors.

Charter of Walter de Kaam granting to Hugh de la Hele a tenement in Hountsham. A.D. 1294. fol 220

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Indenture made between the dean and chapter and Humphrey Shiliere, chaplain; the latter is to have all the Altilagium[1] *of the Chapel of Stoke S. Gregory in North Cory parish*, with house and tithes for seven years, or payment of 100 shillings a year, etc. The said H. may also assign an aque bajulum[2] in the fol. 221

1. Offerings made upon the altar—small tithes.
2. A water pitcher (? a font ewer).

presence and with the consent of the dean and chapter's seneschal, to the service of the said chapel. A.D. 1395.

fol. 222 Charter of Walter de Caam, lord of Knappe, granting to Richard de la Welle and Cecilia his wife, and to Margaret, who was the wife of Richard Trul of Tanton, eighteen acres of land, etc., *at Scallard*, for their lives. Anno regni Edwardi 30°.

fol. 222 in dors. Richard de Caam surrenders to Margerie Cotele land which the dean and chapter had leased to him in North Cory. A.D. 1337.

Richard Craddok, parson of Cory Malet Church, and Nicholas Mancel, chaplain, grant to Margerie at Sloo the burgage granted to them by Walter Portyfer. A.D. 1372.

fol. 223 Convention made between the dean and chapter and William Hughet and his daughter Emma about pastures in North Cory. A.D. 1311.

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fol. 232 Exemplificatio processus facti pro aquis et Warenna de North Cory tempore Ricardi secundi. (1377).

An account of an inquisition which had been held, the names of the jurors and of those who are charged with having illegally entered upon the lands of the dean and chapter, vi et armis, and taken fish et alia bona et catalla to the value of £200, and also hares, rabbits, pheasants, and partridges, and corn and grass to the value of £40; with having made a watercourse upon the dean and chapter's land, imperilled their cattle, and beaten their servants, so that they dared not stay for fear of their lives. They had come in with swords, and bows and arrows, and had vi et armis taken salmon, peel, pike, lampreys, lamprons, eels, and flounders . . . . 2,000 hares, 10,000 rabbits, 1,000 pheasants, 1,000 partridges, wood and corn, etc., together worth £240, and had pastured stock there. The names of the eleven servants who had been beaten and maltreated are given, and six others who had to

fly to save life or limb, and an account of the courts which could not be held, etc. The dean and chapter had been kept out of their rights for thirteen years, and have suffered loss to the value of £2,000.

The details, with the arguments on both sides are given at length on seven folios. The parties are summoned to appear before the justiciaries, R. Bealknap, etc., at Wells, on Wednesday, and the sheriff is to summon a jury of twenty-four from the locality. The parties appeared, but the sheriff had not summoned the jury. The case was adjourned to the next day, on Thursday, at Strete near Glastonbury. Again the parties appear, but sufficient notice had not been given for the gathering together of the twenty-four jurors, they are therefore ordered to appear before the said justiciaries on the next day, Friday, the feast of the decollation[1] St. John Bapt., at Pontyngdon. The jury this time came, but so late, that the case is adjourned to Saturday at Yevelchestre,[2] where a jury is formed. Some of the accused fail to appear, and are condemned in default; others are acquitted upon some and condemned upon others of the charges, and are ordered to pay damages to the dean and chapter; for the game 40 marcs, for the fish 100 marcs, for the timber, etc., £10; for the pasturage, etc., £10; for the watercourse 100 marcs, for the assault on the servants, £20.

It appears that some of the defendants appeal against the amount of damages. The case is heard at Gloucester. Some of the Yevelchestre jurors give evidence on oath, and the verdict is confirmed.

Teste me ipso at Westminster, Aug. 1, Anno Regni 3°

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Licence of the chaper to annex the overlands of the deanery to the lands de antiquo astro.[3] fol. 303

It has not been hitherto allowed to lease the lands

1. August 29th.
2. Ilchester.
3. Old auster—ancient house or hearth.

called "Overland als Demanelond," or to join them to the tenancies of the other lands for any longer term than for the life of the dean. For the future these lands may be added to the other tenancies, and cannot be afterwards separated from those tenancies without the consent of the tenants. The tenants may also buy the said overlands and join them to their former holdings. A.D. 1452.

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Release to the dean and chapter by Idoigne, wife Sir Hugh de Beauchamp, lady of Lillesdone, of a tenement, etc., at Lillesdone, Anno Regni, E. III, 20°

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fol. 336 in dors. Release granted to the dean and chapter by John Beauchamp, knight, lord of Lillesdon, for all services due from the lands of the men of Hele.

Test. Henry Hacche, etc. Given at Wells on Saturday next after S. Catherine's day. 36 E. III.

Page 206.

fol. 349 The dean and chapter will release Hugh Cancy of North Cory from his bond for £100, if he pays their expenses in a suit against him for trespass in the warren. April 18, anno regni E. III, 40°

Page 208.

Bond of Hugh, son of Hugh Attehele of Northcory, to dean and chapter for £100. Anno regni E. 8°

Page 215.

fol. 405 Conf. by Edward of former charters of kings Henry, John, and Richard, granting markets, etc., at North Cory.

Given at Wyndesore, Oct. 12, anno regni 13°

Page 216.

fol. 407 Licence by king Edward to the dean and chapter to grant 100 acres of moor at North Cory to the abbey of Athelney, notwithstanding mortmain. Cf. fol. 27.

Conf. by John count of Mortaigne of the grant

made by his brother king Richard, and confirmed by himself, of Hacche, etc., to the dean and chapter. Cf. 1, fol. 10. Confirmation by Henry III, cf. 1, fol. 10.

A certificate by king Henry that the chapter claims in North Cory are found in libro feodorum. fol. 408

End of Liber Albus III.

Miscellaneous entries from other volumes not entirely appertaining to the manor of North Curry.

Volume E.

Page 232.

A continuation of volume D (1545) as far as A.D. 1565.

The first entry, with the marginal note, "A special good note to be remembered." fol. 1

Mem: That whensoever the deane and chapter shall suffre or susteane any prejudyce, losse, or dammage by receavying of rent, and by receavying of the same rent, ratyfye any lease, that for remedy of that dammage, the saide deane or chaptter or there assignes shall first entre, and in that entry, if it be in houses, to avoide the house of all maner of persons within the same, and yf it be in groundes to avoide the same of all and all maner of cattell in and upon the same groundes.

Page 234.

Letter from the king's majestie's commissioners.[1] fol. 14 in dors.

"To the Right Worshipfull and our veary loving Friendes the President, dignities, Archdeacons, and the Chapitour of Wells. After our hartie comendacions.

Page 235.

Whereas at the suite and ernest request of the ministers of the Churche of Excester, wee have put

1. ? 1547, Edward VI.

downe the wearing of black coopes and scapulars and amyases of clothe because et ys thought to be a kynde of monkerye, and now entending to sett an uniforme ordere throughout all our progresse; wee requyre you and yeat neverthelesse by the King's Majesties awthoritie unto us comytted, straitely charge you that ymediately uppon recept herof, all dignities, Prebendaries, and other ministers of that churche do surcease from using or wearing any black coope of cloth or scapular of cloth above their surplesses. And that as well you within all churches of your peculiar jurisdiction, as also all archdeacons and others having ecclesiastical jurisdiction within the Diocese of Wells, shall in their severall territories give commaundment unto the Churche Wardens and other the parishioners from henceforth to surcease from keeping any Churche Ales, because it hath byn declared unto us that many inconveniences hath come by them. Nevertheless requiring the saide Church Wardens to make yerely collections for reparation of their churches and for sustentation of other common charges of the Parish accordinglie—And that they likewise do abstain from such unmeasurable ringing for ded persons at theire buriall and at the ffeast of All Sowles. And that from hencefurthe they use to ring oon bell at soch tyme as sicke persones lyeth in extreme daunger of death that they which be haile may be put in remembraunce of theire owne mortalitie, and also excited to praie unto God for soche their sicke neighbours, that they may pacietlie suffre death if God send it, and that the hard panges theroof for Christes love who suffered much more for them, and that they may so departe out of this life in true faithe, hope, and charitie as their sowles may be afterward receaved unto eternall felicitie to raigne with Christ everlastinglie in the kingdome of Heaven. And when the corps of any suche dead persons shalbe brought to the Churche to be buried then to ring also moderatlie in the time of the obsequies therof and no longer. And fardre wee desire you Mr. Dr. Creting and Mr. Smyth to take ordre of the redresse of the comperts that were delyvered unto Mr. Heth and then to certifie us what

you shall doe in the same. And so we bidde you hartilie farewell. From Sarisbury the first of Novembre.

"Also that the Ministers of your Churche and other persons resorting thither may upon holy daies have some holsome doctrine for their instruction declared unto theym, wee charge and in the King's Majesties name commande you to see that oon of the Vicar's priests of that churche whom you shall thinke mooste fytte for that purpose doe reade every holy daie, openlie, plainlie, and distinctely in the quier ymediatilie after the offertory of the high masse oon of the homilies in ordre as they stande in the booke, which his highness hath sett furth for thinstruction of his people. And that you do punish soche as shall other negligentlie reade theym or that shall refuse to do their duetie herin by reteigning of their wages and stipend until such tyme as they have doen their duetie in that behalf. Your loving friends William May, Symon Heyaes, Walter Buclour, Thomas Tottsford."

Page 239.

The dean and chapter grant the wardship of Thomas, son of Anthony Norton, the late holder of half the manor of Stathe by military tenure, to William Lyte of Lylesdon, armiger, for £20. Feb. 22, 7 E. VI (1554). fol. 78

Page 247.

July 1, A.D. 1597. Roger Weichell of Fifett, tanner, to have timber to build up the prison at North Curry, and to have a lease of the prison house for 21 years, paying the usual rent and keeping it in repair.

On April 2, 1599. A lease of all the fowling in the hundred North Curry granted to Hugh Portman, miles, for 21 years at a rent of 4*d.* a year, reserving to the dean and chapter the right of hawking and fowling there when it shall please any of them to do so.

Page 265.

1703. Jan. 19. The fast day for "the storm," when bishop Kidder and his wife were killed by the fall of a chimney stack.

Page 274.

The roll for A.D. 1343-4.

4lbs. of wax are bought for the obsequies of Isabella de Courtenya and J. de Bella Campo.

In dono decani et capituli juratoribus hundredi de North Cory existent coram Will° Thorp et sociis suis justiciariis dni Regis apud Wellen: 13*s.* 4*d.*

Solut dño Ep°: pro dedicatione magni altaris de Stoke, £3 6*s.* 8*d.*

Reproduced from the Ordnance map by permission of the Controller of H M's Stationery Office

Scale of Miles

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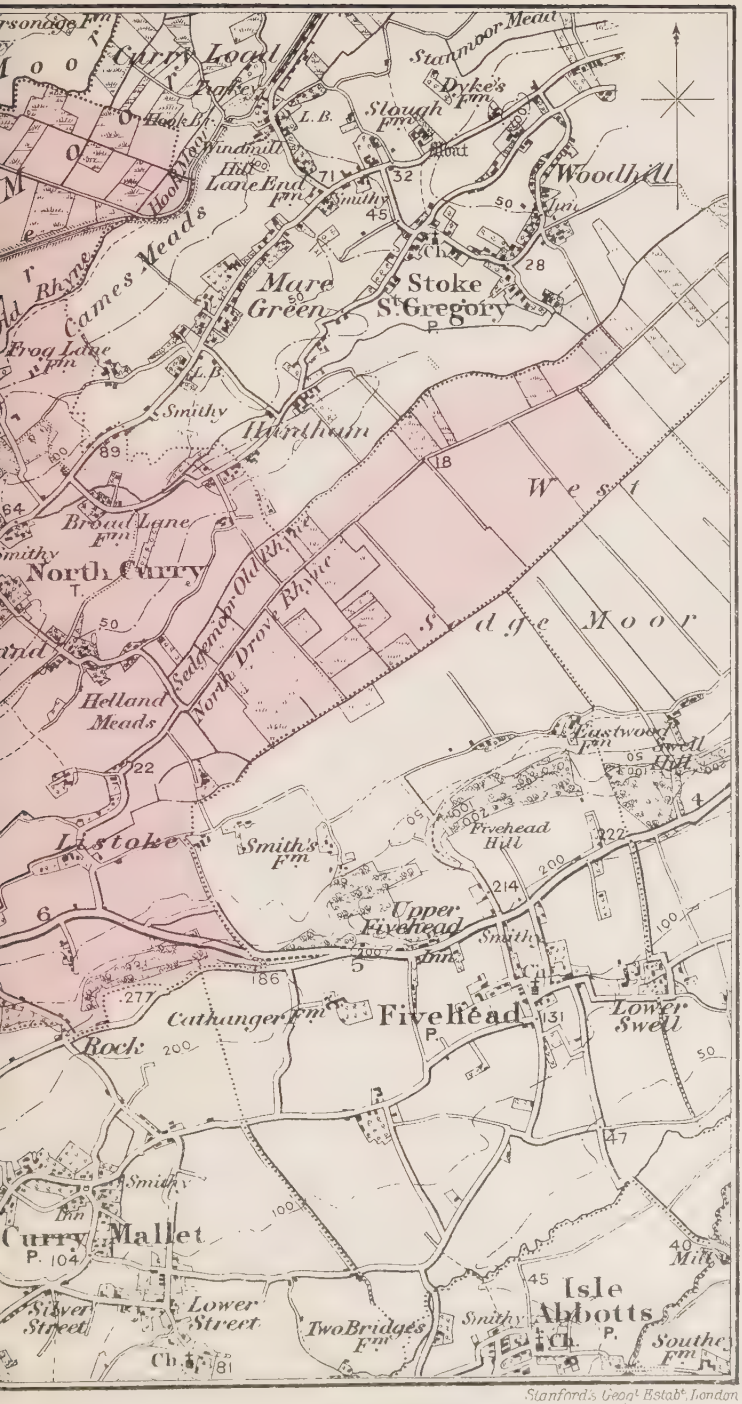
MAP OF



Stanford's Geogl Estabt London

H OF NORTH CURRY.

Section III.

The Parish of North Curry.

THE parish of North Curry is situated very nearly in the middle of West Somerset, and nearly equidistant between the towns of Taunton, Bridgwater, Langport, and Ilminster. It is in the hundred called North Curry, the rural deanery of Taunton, the archdeaconry of Taunton, and the diocese of Bath and Wells. Its area is 5,572 acres. Ratable value, £15,453 13*s.* 9*d.* Rate at 10*d.* in the pound, £599. The population, according to the census of 1891, was 1604. (In 1881 it was 1599; in 1871, 1699; in 1861 it was 1839.)

Collinson, who wrote his History in 1791, gives the following description:

"North Curry is a parish of large extent, seven miles nearly east from Taunton, and ten south from Bridgwater, including a town of its name and several tithings and hamlets. The principal part of the town is an irregular street near the church, which stands on an elevated spot, and commands from its tower a finely varied prospect of woody enclosures and extensive level moors, skirted with a lofty ridge of hills to the east and south. West Moor, Curry Moor, and Hay Moor are all included within the precincts of the parish, and the inhabitants have a right of common on West Sedgmoor, Stanmoor, and Warmoor, and West Wall adjoining the Isle of Athelney, where the commonage is unlimited for all sorts and numbers of cattle throughout the year.

"The river Tone runs through this parish, under a stone bridge of one arch, on its way to Boroughbridge,

where it mingles with the Parret. Here was formerly a market on Wednesdays,[1] long since discontinued, but a fair of ancient standing is still held the 1st of August. This place was of considerable note in former days, and not unknown to the Romans. In July, 1748, in ploughing up a field in which an old hedge had stood, an urn was found containing a quantity of silver coins of Gratian, Valentinean, Valens, Theodosius, Honorius, Constentine, Constans, Julian, and many others. When the Romans left this island it became the property of Saxon kings, and when William the Conqueror came to the crown, he himself reserved it in demesne. It continued in the crown from this date till the time of Richard I, who in 1189 gave the hundred, manor, and advowson of the church of North Curry, with the land of Hatch, Wrantage, and its appurtenances, to the church of St. Andrews in Wells, and in the year 1190, Reginald, then bishop of Bath and Wells, settled it by licence from the king to the canons of that church, which appointment was fully confirmed by king John in the first year of his reign. The dean and chapter have ever since held the manor."

"14 Hen. II (1168). Robert, provost of North Curry, paid the sum of forty shillings aid for marrying the king's daughter. The rest of the men of North Curry paid six pounds, thirteen shillings, and four pence.

"The tithings and hamlets within the parish are Knap, Lillisdon, Wrantage, Hilland, Newport, and Moordon. The first of these, namely, Knap, was granted by Hameline de Godely, 35 Edw. I, to the dean and chapter of the church of St. Andrew, Wells, and their successors for ever. The said Hameline held it of Cecelia de Beauchamp by the service of six-pence per annum, and doing suit at three weeks' court at Dunden. Cicily held it of the abbot of Glaston-bury, and the abbot of the king.

"Lillesdon was in the time of Edw. I the land of Baldric de Norrington, who held it of the king as of the honour of the castle of Carisbrook in the Isle of

1. Cart. 7 John, n. 52.

Wight. 3 Edw. III. John Brodhome granted to Richard de Stapledon a moiety of the manor of Lillisdon for life. It was afterwards possessed by the Bonvilles, Wykes of Ninehead, and the Beauchamps, and now belongs to John Collins of Hatch Beauchamp, Esq., who is lord also of Huntham cum Slough.

"Moordon or Moordown is the property of Henry William Portman, Esq.

"Newport was anciently distinguished as a borough, having its privileges and peculiar officers; it now only retains the name.

"Neither of these places are mentioned in the Norman survey. At Knap, Lillisdon, Wrantage, and Newport were formerly chapels.

"There is also a manor here belonging to Warwick Colmady, Esq.

"A.D. 1293, the temporalities of the church of Wells in North Curry were valued at forty-five pounds, and those of the abbot of Glastonbury at twenty-six shillings and eightpence.

"The vicarage was rated in 1293 at 20 marks. It lies in the deanery of Taunton. The Rev. Canon Wilson is the present incumbent.

"The church, which is dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, is a large Gothick structure built in the form of a cross, consisting of nave, chancel, two side aisles, and a transept. Over the intersection of the transept with the nave stands an hexagonal embattled tower, containing a clock and five bells.

"At the south end of the transept lie two effigies in stone of a man and woman, but without any memorial.

"On a brass plate in the floor: 'Here liethe the body of John Bullor the younger, of Lillisdon, Esq., who was buried the 29 Feb., 1598.'

"In the floor of a pew which formerly belonged to the same family is another brass inserted: 'Here liethe the body of Elizabeth Bullor, late the wife of John Bullor the younger, of Lillisdon, Esq., who deceased the 29th January, 1587.'

"The second poor receive the interest of forty pounds, being the remains of a much larger donation now lost."

This description of Collinson is fairly minute, but he omits all reference to the reeve's feast, although he alludes to it in his account of both Stoke St. Gregory and West Hatch, which will be seen when those parishes are considered.

From the earliest periods of which we have any records, we find that the parish of North Curry was divided into four tithings,[1] namely, those of North Curry, Lillesdon, Wrantage, and Knapp, and besides these are the hamlet of Broad Lane and the borough of Newport.[2] These divisions are still slightly observed for some parish purposes, and until very recently each division appointed its own surveyor of highways, and bore the expense of repairing the same. But for general purposes they have always been included as the "parish of North Curry."

There are numerous speculations as to the derivation of the name "North Curry," but none of them appear to me to be conclusive. I hope I may be pardoned if I venture on a suggestion as to its origin. In England, the names of towns and villages are usually of Anglo-Saxon derivation, and a large number of them are

1. The Tithing was a division for the purpose of public order. Every man was compelled to belong to a tithing, *i.e.* an association of ten men. The men of each tithing were bound to produce any of their number when called upon by law, or in default to pay for his wrong doing, unless able to clear themselves from all complicity with it. They were disabled from leaving the manor or parish, and anciently no man was suffered to abide in England above forty days unless he were enrolled in some tithing.

2. The borough staff is said to be still in existence. The Rev. A. M. Foster writes: "I have the old staff that my uncle called the Newport borough staff. The total length is now 2ft. 8in., one end is much worm-eaten, but from a four-sided tapering hole nearly in the centre I think it was never much longer, but ended in an iron ferrule or spike. The diameter of the wooden part is about $1\frac{1}{4}$in., and fairly uniform throughout, but tapering a little towards the metal head. This is made of copper or bronze, first a shaft into which the wood fits, this is roughly octagonal and about $1\frac{3}{8}$in. long; then a twelve-pointed knob, made apparently by filing a rough knob rather flat on the top, diagonally to right and left from four points, these deep valleys make the points stand out. It is rough work, and I should think old, but I can find no date. I should think it was a bâton. The metal end would hit a man a murderous blow, but the shaft is too thick and not well enough balanced to be used as a weapon of offence. It could not be handled with any rapidity."

descriptive of the physical conditions of the country in early times. The distribution of land and water, marsh, hill, or plain attracted the attention of the first settlers, and the name they gave marked these features. It is called "North" from its position in regard to the other Currys. Curry Mallett and Curry Rivel derive their second name from the feudal lord, and indicates the system of land ownership, and dates more particularly from the Norman Conquest. There is also East Curry, by which name a large portion of Stoke St. Gregory is called in old documents. The same rule as to position and ownership applies to West Hatch and Hatch Beauchamp. The name of all the Currys in the Domesday Survey and in old documents is "Cori," "Chori," or "Curi." They are all similarly situated, that is having patches of elevated land, with a large amount of low lands or moors around which was originally swamp, and subject to the inundation of the sea. The name has undergone numerous orthographical changes, as Nort Cori, Nort Curi, Nort Chori, Northcory, and latterly North Curry. The word "Cors" or "Cos" is an ancient British word signifying a marsh (for example there is Corston, a marsh town), ey, ei, or i is the Saxon termination which is so frequently found in the names of places similarly situated, such as Athelney, Godney, Muchelney, Othery, etc., and which also has relation to water or an island.[1] The name may therefore signify the lands about the marsh. The circumstances are very different now from what they were in the earlier times before the inroads of the sea were checked. Remove the sea walls and river embankments of to-day, and it would soon revert to the condition described in the time of king Alfred, when he made these marshes the basis of his warlike operations against the encroachment of the Danes (A.D. 872), and when they were a great tract of fen and morass, and,

1. This termination is more particularly common in the centre of Somerset, and indicates what great physical changes have taken place since the Saxon times, when places so called were islands. There are numerous others as Rodney, Henley, Bradney, Horsey, Middleney, Thorney, Chedzoy, Westonzoyland, Middlezoy, etc.—Taylor's *Words and Places.*

as we have seen, not even measured or taken any account of in the Domesday record.

North Curry is situated in the hundred also called North Curry. The ancient hundred, namely that of Domesday, included only the parishes of North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, and West Hatch; but the modern hundred has had tacked on to it the parishes of Thurlbeer and Thornfalcon.

The following is from an old book, *The Complete English Traveller*, by Nathaniel Spencer, Esq., 1771.

"Near Taunton is North Curry, a small market town situated on the Tone, but has nothing remarkable. It has a weekly market on Tuesdays, and a fair on the 1st August for cattle and toys."

Also the same writer, describing the villages in the neighbouroood, says:

"The inhabitants of these villages are plain, simple, industrious people, seemingly content with their station, and few of them ever leaving their native place. Provisions are in great plenty, the gardens and fields being well cultivated, so that the whole reminded us of those descriptions of the innocence of rural life often mentioned by the poets."

The market every Wednesday, and the fair on the 1st of August, were very old institutions, and are part of the charter granted by king John in A.D. 1206.[1]

The market is said to have been continued until 1841, and the fair-day was altered in 1790, as appears from a printed circular bearing that date. It was then thought expedient to change the original day for holding it to the first Tuesday in September, and it has been held on that day ever since.

The following is a copy of the circular:

"Fair

"Whereas North Curry fair has been heretofore held on the First day of August (Lammas day).[2]

1. No fair or market can be lawfully set up without licence from the crown.—Stephens. *Laws of England.*

2. In *Wells MSS.*, p. 161, there appears under the customs of the church of North Curry, "Solvend: ad Gulam Aug. . . . denarr: S. Petri, 1s. 3d." (Payment on 1st Aug. of St. Peter's pence). This may have some connection with the day for holding the fair, as in olden times a holiday was usually observed on that day.

"This is to give Notice
"That the said fair will in future be held on the First Tuesday in September, for the sale of all sorts of fat and lean Cattle, Sheep, and Horses; and for the encouragement of Butchers, Horse Dealers, and others, the Inhabitants will endeavour to get a good shew of every kind.

"Dated 5th day of June, 1790."

The name "Shambles" in the centre of the village suggests the place where the weekly market was held.

The Manor is a matter of much interest. In very early days there were manors everywhere, and the manor was the landowner's estate, with a township or village community in villainage upon it, under the jurisdiction of the lord of the manor, as every manor had its lord represented by a steward or reeve.

The manor of North Curry has always included, and anciently was coterminous with, the three parishes which constituted the ancient hundred. It will be seen by the Domesday record that earl Harold, earl of Somerset, held the manor in Saxon times. It fell to William the Conqueror (1066) by escheat from Harold and his kindred after his death at the battle of Hastings. It continued in the possession of the king until Nov. 27, 1189, when king Richard I granted the manor of "North Curi" to Reginald, bishop of Bath. Relating to this charter, the following is from Eyton's *Wells Cathedral* (p. 730, appendix G):

"Carta Regis Ricardi de prebendis et Terris de nove adquisitis.

"Reg. iii, fol. 13.

"Richard by the Grace of God king of England, etc. Know that we have granted and by this present charter have confirmed to God and the church of St. Andrew in Wells and to Reinand, bishop of Bath and his successors for ever, all donations of churches and other benefices made to him and the aforesaid church as the charters of the givers do testify, viz.: no. 1 to no. 22 (various gifts, etc., not concerning this manor), no. 23. By our gift the manor of North Cory with the church and all its appurtenances.

"The church or manor of North Curry, Wrantage, and West Hatch, with gifts of crown lands after purchase by the bishop from king Richard, when he was raising money for the means of the crusade by sale of lands and offices. (R. i, f. 9). They were bought by the bishop from the crown, and made over by him as a benefaction to augment the common funds of the canons, and formed the largest manorial possession of the chapter. The manor of North Curry included the hundred, and was a great lordship."

The same writer says (p. 69), A.D. 1190. "King Richard, intent upon an immediate start for the Holy Land, was selling the offices of state and making conveyances of state lands, etc., to the highest bidder. All who could were buying rights and privileges, offices and benefices, not only to the confirmation of their own, but to the usurpation of their neighbours' rights. At this time, Reginald was employing his money for the benefit of the diocese, and buying from the king confirmations of all the possessions and privileges of the see, and the grant of the manor of North Curry, a costly purchase which he made over to the canons of his cathedral church."

The next bishop, Savaric, A.D. 1201–1203, confirmed Reginald's grant to the canons.

On Sept. 30, 1199, king John confirms the charter of Richard I, with the lands of Hatch and Wrantage; and at Bristol, on Sept. 10, 1206, again confirms the same, with the grant of a market every Wednesday. Various communications are made to the "men of North Cury" respecting these grants (see *Wells MSS.*, p. 4, etc.).

In 1242, bishop Jocelin made gift *to the chapter* of the manor of North Curry. It is remarkable that ever since that time, a period of over 800 years, it has been in the possession of the dean and chapter, until they commuted their estates with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for a fixed income in 1866. The presentation to the living has been in their gift ever since that early date, and still so continues.

The tenants held their tenements, etc., by copy of Court Roll, for lives, with the right of renewal. The

NORTH CURRY CHURCH, INTERIOR.

Roll is still preserved in the Library at Wells, and consists of many sheets of parchment stitched together and rolled up, hence the name. On the manor coming under the control of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, they allowed the copyholders, instead of taking new copies, to become possessors of the freehold, of which the greater number have taken advantage. The *Court* of the manor is therefore a thing of the past, and the only semblance to it is an annual visit of the agent of the Commissioners to hold what is called the "Halimote Court" (or Court Baron), for the collection of a few outstanding reserved rents due from those who have not enfranchised, and which are yearly becoming less, together with the rectorial tithes which are also in the hands of the Commissioners. They are still the lords of the manor.[1]

The Church is a handsome and substantial structure, and well deserving of the appellation which has frequently been given to it, "the cathedral of the moors," and is one of the finest village churches in the West of England. It is dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul. It is cruciform in shape, having chancel, nave, north and south aisles and transepts, and bold south porch; and a fine central octagonal tower, which has an excellent clock and a beautiful peal of eight bells.

The tower is almost entirely built of grey sand-

1. In consequence of religious troubles, the following order was made with regard to the granting of new lease or copy: "On May, 7th, 1684, after the ordinary chapter business is ended, it is ordered as follows:

"Since all the indulgence of the Throne and all the mildnesse of of the Church cannot oblige the Dissenters of this Kingdome to their duty, but that they still foment designs to lay them both in one common ruine, and since it is unequall that those persons should enjoy the Lands of the Church and the Blessing of that Tenure who despise her Laws and professe themselves her enemies . . . . . That for the future no persons whatsoever who hold any estate from the Dean and Chapter of this Cathedral Church, either by Lease or Copy, shall be admitted to renew or purchase any further interest in any such estate unless a Certificate be first brought to the Chapter under the hand of the Minister of their Parish that they do live in obedience to His Majestie's Lawes and that they have received the Blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Supper within a year next before their admission to make any such purchase; or that the Chapter by some other way be ascertained of such conformity of ye purchasers." —*Wells MSS.*, p. 264.

stone raised in the neighbourhood: the rest of the building is chiefly of blue lias mixed occasionally with Ham stone: all the window mullions and arches are of Ham stone. The architecture is chiefly Perpendicular (1377-1509), but many of the windows are of the Decorated period (1272-1377). The oldest portion appears to be the north doorway, which is said to be Norman (1066-1145). A peculiar feature in the pillars of the arches between the nave and aisles is the mixture of Ham Hill, lias, and sandstone, in bands irregularly placed, which has a very pleasing effect. There is evidence of its having been altered from an earlier church to its present form, by the lines on the walls of the chancel and nave, which show the high-pitched roof of the old Early English church (1145-1272); and when making the restoration in 1882, the old clerestory windows were found embedded in the wall between the nave and north aisle; the tracery of these is now shown in the positions in which they were found, and which it is supposed they originally occupied. This wall, and most of the arches on that side, were taken down and rebuilt, as also was the north wall and the old north doorway. The old oak panelled roof of the north aisle was also taken down and carefully repaired and replaced. The restoration was carried out in accordance with plans by the late Sir Gilbert Scott, by his son, Mr. Oldred Scott. More information about this church will be found in the *Proceedings* of the Somerset Archæological Society. The members paid it a visit in 1898, when Mr. Buckle gave a description which will be found in their annual *Proceedings*, vol. xliv, for 1898. They also paid it a visit in 1872, and a further description will be found in vol. xviii.

There is the remains of a "stoup" for holy water in the porch, on the right side of the south door, cut away even with the wall.

The churchwardens' accounts show a large expenditure in repairs, etc., from time to time. Particulars relating to the last restoration will be found at page 217, and those of a so-called restoration in 1832 at page 194. This was a bad period for church work.

Norman Doorway
North Curry Church. ©1900.

The restoration consisted in clearing away the old oak, substituting square boxes for the old open seats, and whitewashing the walls. This was carried out by a Mr. Carver, a county surveyor, not a church architect. There is a minute of a meeting (page 197), showing that the pulpit was to be made out of the old oak of the Lillesdon pew, and it was resolved to wait and see what oak was left before "doing up the communion." What oak was found in 1882 was made use of for the case of the present organ. An old plan which was found in 1882 shows the arrangement of seats, now made very similar to what existed prior to 1832. The floor, which had been filled in to make it more level with that of the porch, and which had buried up the bases of the pillars, was excavated to its original position, and the bases of the pillars restored. These had been before hacked away to make the square boxes fit the more evenly. The organ and loft, which obstructed the light of the fine west window, were removed, and the organ placed in its present position in the chancel.[1]

Most of the beautiful stained glass windows were placed about this time, namely, the two in the south transept by Major Barrett, the east window by the relatives and friends of the vicar, the Rev. R. C. Lathom Browne; the south-west window in the chancel by sons and daughters of the late Mr. C. M. Foster; the south-east window in the chancel by Mrs. Elliott, of Bath, in memory of Robert Hooper Scott and Mary his sister; the south-west in the south aisle by the Foster family, the subject having relation to the late Mr. John Hopkins Foster, being the founder of the first Sunday school in the parish. These were all the work of Messrs. Burlesson and Grylls. The west window was placed by subscription in memory of the late vicar, the Rev. C. R. Harrison,[2] and contains a portrait

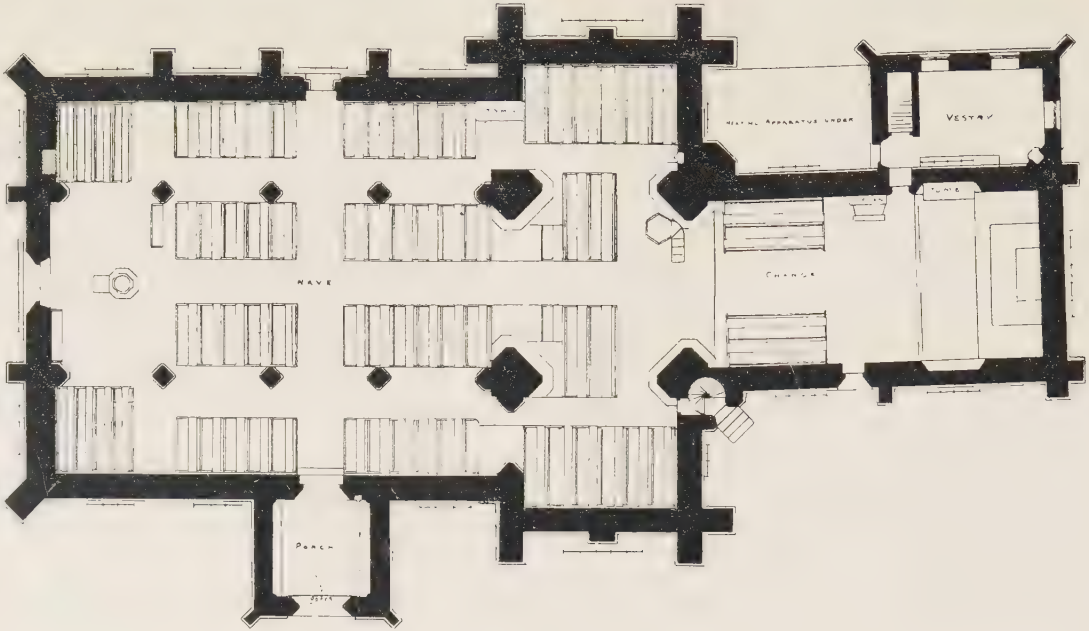
1. This organ, which was much altered at that time, was given by the late J. Scott Gould, of Moredon, about 1837, and has since had several improvements made by the vicar, the Rev. Prebendary Buller.

2. The Rev. C. R. Harrison will be remembered as being one of the principal compilers of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, and at the

of him, and also one of his sons who was killed whilst on his way to Pretoria with the headquarters of the 94th regiment, by a treacherous attack of the Boers at the commencement of the war in the Transvaal in 1880. This, and the small west window of the south aisle, placed since by Mrs. Robbs in memory of her mother, Mrs. Derham, are the work of Messrs. Heaton, Butler, and Bayne, as is also the small window over the north door in memory of the late Mrs. Harriet Olivey, placed by her husband. The east window of the north transept is in memory of Lieut. A. G. Barrett, who was drowned whilst fishing on the Dee in Scotland, to whom there is also a brass plate erected by his brother officers. The north window in the chancel is in memory of the late Mr. Philip Foster, who was churchwarden for many years: this was placed by his nephew the Rev. A. M. Foster.[1]

time of his death was chairman of the committee; and to him churchmen generally owe a debt of gratitude. His co-compilers helped materially in the erection of this beautiful window.

1. This gentleman has favoured me with the loan of some papers in his possession relating to the establishment of the first Sunday School by his grandfather, Mr. J. Hopkins Foster, and also some relating to the first Day School. The Sunday School was started in 1809, for the tithing of North Curry, by him, in conjunction with Mr. Scott, Mr. Foster being superintendent. Both a master and mistress were engaged, whose united modest salary, according to the first balance sheet, only amounted to £4 3s. The boys were instructed in the vestry room, and the girls at the house of the mistress. The education given was most rudimentary. The order of classes was: I. Alphabet and words of one syllable. II. The first spelling book. III. The second ditto. IV. The New Testament. V. Bible or Old Testament. The Sunday was taken full advantage of, the hours of attendance being: when morning service, from 9 o'clock until service, and 2.30 until 5. When afternoon service, from 9 until 12, and from 2 in the afternoon until service, and one hour after. The school was opened on Feb. 11, 1809, and there immediately attended 24 boys and 34 girls. The first statement to the subscribers speaks in glowing terms of the success—"In presenting . . . we feel thankful that we have an opportunity of experiencing at how small an expence such an important service may be done to the community at large, and we trust individual advantage Since the establishment of this society in February last, 144 children have been admitted, some of whom have made considerable progress in reading, etc., and we flatter ourselves the moral instruction they have received will not wholly prove ineffectual in their future conduct. To the friends of religion the observation was pleasant, that in consequence of this Sunday School, not only the profanation of the



Ground Plan of North Curry Church.

SCALE 10 FEET TO INCH

DENOTES POSITIONS OF WINDOWS WHICH ARE AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN THE LINE TAKEN FOR PLAN

ANCIENT FIREPLACE NOW GRILLED UP

T. B. OTHEN
NORTH CURRY

Besides these, other handsome gifts have been made, viz.: the brass eagle lectern, to commemorate the coming of age of Mr. Wm. Barrett, junr.; the suspended lamps and a brass ewer for the font by Major Barrett; a cross for the re-table in memory of Mrs. Olivey, by Mrs. Weaver; flower vases and a new altar frontal from the Misses Buller.

There is a restored piscina in the right of the east window of the north transept, which indicates the position of an altar here, perhaps a chantry chapel.

In the wall of the west end, near the north-west corner, at the time of the restoration was discovered the remains of a fireplace, with a chimney passing up through the wall, indicating a priest's chamber in this position. This is now covered over by a removable piece of the oak panelling. Under the south window of the south transept was at the same time found a recess for depositing the communion plate: this has been indicated in the panelling by a door being placed.

Lord's day was less open and extensive, but many children and parents were thereby led to attend public worship who had habitually devoted their Sabbaths to idleness, and too frequently to drunkenness. We feel a glow of hope from past experience that an establishment of such evident utility will not fail of support from the advocates of philanthropy, who, when they review the annexed statement, we doubt not will unite in extending the beneficial influence of Sunday Schools, to the dispersion of ignorance and superstition, the suppression of vice, and the establishment of morality, seeing the comparative expense is so trifling.

The next educational move was called the "Improved Day School," which was established May 1, 1820. The following are the chief points contained in a circular then issued.

"The Plan." "This school is conducted in connection with the Sunday school, on the principles of the Church of England, after the plan of 'The Village School Improved,' instituted in Enmore by the Rev. J. Poole. The boys are taught reading, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic. The girls are instructed in the same, together with useful needlework and knitting, etc." "The Rules." I. Open at 9 and 2. II. That boys who learn reading, writing on slates, etc., and girls, etc., shall each pay 2d. a week, and ½d. for use of books and slates; and that for learning to write on paper, for the use of pens and ink an additional ½d. III. Payment to be made on Monday morning. IV. All are to attend the Sunday School. V. The parent to bring a new scholar. VI. Any child found guilty of lying, swearing, stealing, Sabbath-breaking, etc., and persisting in after due admonition, shall be expelled."

This gave place to the present National School, which was established in 1847.

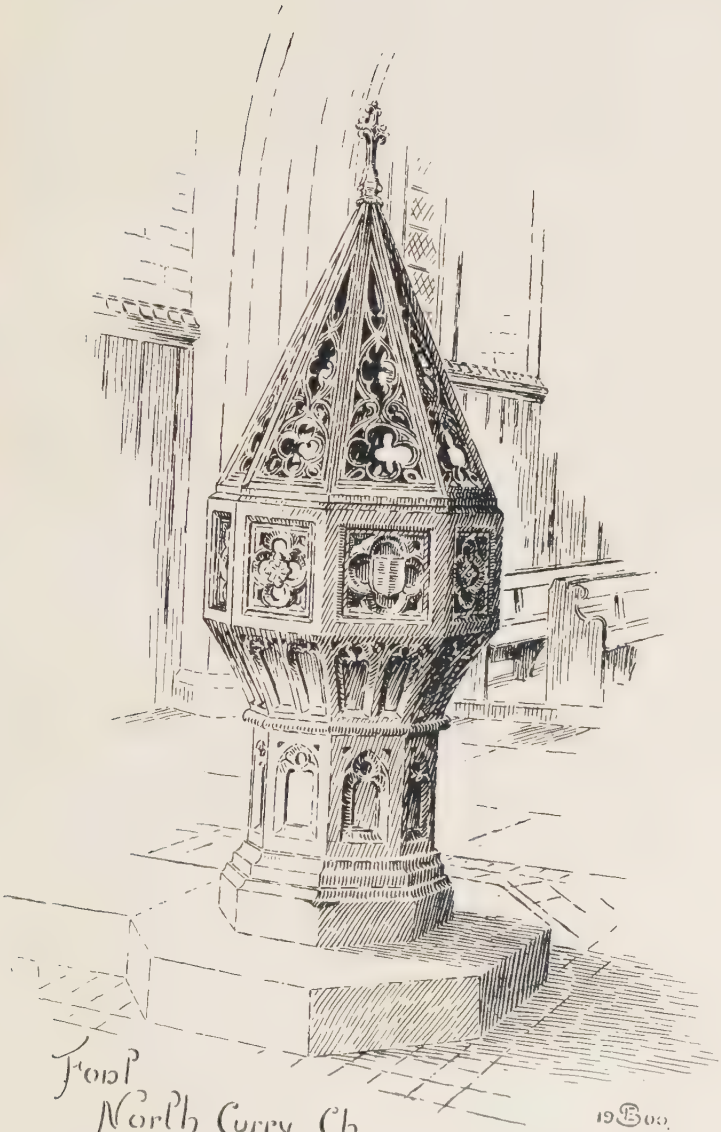
At the same time the niches in the porch were filled with the figures representing SS. Peter and Paul and the Saviour, and that over the church door the Virgin and Child. These were sculptured by Mr. Harry Hems, of Exeter. The carvings of the pulpit, and other carved stonework which needed repair, were done by the same artist. Many of the corbels are peculiar, as also are the gurgoyles on the exterior, particularly the one at the north-west corner, which represents Satan chained. The parapets throughout are of Ham Hill stone of pierced work, and are richly carved.

The Church Yard is an extensive piece of ground of about two acres, and from an old plan appears to have undergone some alterations of boundary in recent years. The same plan shows the old position of the parish pound.

The Font is of some interest, and is placed on a raised platform near to the west door: it is thus described in *Church Fonts of Somerset*, by Mr. Harvey Pridham: "All octagonal outside; Ham Hill stone. The faces of the bowl are panelled alternately with shield and flower in centre. All other faces alike. Inside bowl circular, lead lined; vertical sides, flat plan; 10½in. deep, 21in. inside diameter flat; modern cover. Belongs to the Early Perpendicular period, 1377-1460."

The Pulpit is new. It is of Ham Hill stone: the upper portion being of open work. It was made and placed in its present position at the restoration of 1882, replacing one of painted wood, which had some old oak carving around its base representing a vine with grapes. This pattern has been imitated at the angles of the present pulpit. These old oak carvings were obtained from the old Lillesdon pew at the restoration of 1832, as appears from vestry minutes of that period. The old pulpit stood on a high stone pedestal, in the centre, under the belfry canopy.

The Church Plate consists of two chalices, 9in. high; two patens, 9in. diameter; one large flagon, 1ft. high. Each of these is inscribed with a shield with a sacred



Font
North Curry Ch.

monogram and three nails below, and have the inscription: "Presented by Mrs. Mary Scott, of Morden, in the parish of North Curry, 1831."

There are also two old pewters, 14in. high; these are said to have been introduced into churches by the Puritans, to show their disregard for the sacredness of material things, and are such as were used by publicans about the time of the Commonwealth.

The Bells[1] have always been an important feature in churchwardens' accounts, and no entry occurs more frequently than repairs to them, such as new ropes, wheels, etc., and charges for ringing. There is the regular payment made to the "Beddman." It was his duty to ring the curfew bell (covre feu), a custom which arose from an order by William the Conqueror to put out all fires and lights by eight o'clock at night; and for this purpose a bell was to be rung. The custom of ringing this bell is still continued in Taunton and some other places.[2]

The "death bell" is also the remains of a custom of very early times. Although we now only think of it as the knell, telling us of a departed friend, it had a very different meaning originally. Many customs still linger among us which in their origin might by some, now, be deemed superstitious. This was the "passing bell," and the living were called upon to pray for the departing soul. In the "Advertisement for due order," etc., of 7 Eliz., we find: "Item, that when a Christian bodie is *in passing* that the Bell be tolled and that the Curate be speciallie called for to comfort the sick person, and after the time of his passinge to ring no more but one shorte peale; and

1. Bells were first introduced into churches A.D. 676. About the same period the endowment of parish churches was promoted, by giving the right of patronage to their founders; church rates enforced, and it is supposed the payment of tithes was *established*, having been introduced by Augustine, the first archbishop of Canterbury, A.D. 601, and were then voluntary.—Pinnock's *Analysis*.

2. Although the accounts show this was a part of his duty, it is more probable the name given was a corruption of *Bedeman; bede* meaning prayer, and hence the term beadle or bedell, the church or parish officer whose duty it was also to toll the prayer bell.

one before the buriall and another shorte peale after the buriall" (see also *Wells MSS.*, p. 235). In 1662, the bishop of Winchester asked in his visitation charge: "Doth the Parish Clerk or Sexton take care to admonish the living by tolling of a *passing bell* of any that are dying, thereby to meditate of their own deaths and to commend the other's weak condition to the mercy of God?" Thus, for the "passing bell," we have substituted the tolling the bell *after death.* There is another old custom which seems to have existed from very early times, namely, that of making a numerical distinction in the number of strokes at the conclusion of the burial service, *i.e.*, nine for a man, seven for a woman, five for a boy and three for a girl; and also that of denoting the age of the person in a series of twenty strokes, with an interval between each score. It was a superstitious idea that the great bell was always used on these occasions as a means of scaring the evil spirits further away, by which means the poor soul should get a better start of them; besides being heard further off to procure the dying man a greater number of prayers. A vestige of popery!

Another custom still survives, namely, that of tolling the bell on Sundays at eight o'clock in the morning and at one o'clock. Besides these uses, the records show how frequently the bells were rung. On 5th Nov. (gunpowder plot), and May 29 (the restoration of king Charles II), they were always rung, and a fee allowed, sometimes for refreshments, beer, etc.,[1] on coronation days, royal birthdays, for victories by sea and land, and numerous other occasions. They tell us many points of history, and show how our forefathers were moved by the stirring events of the time.

In the tower of North Curry church there is now a peal of eight bells; six of these were cast, or more probably re-cast, by Thomas Mears, at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, in 1811. The particulars of these are as follows:

1. In 1868 these ringing days were discontinued by a resolution of the vestry.

Diameter.	*Tone.*	*Weight.* cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
48 inches . .	Tenor E . .	17	2	15
43 „ . .	VII F♯ . .	13	3	2
40½ „ . .	VI G♯ . .	11	3	9
37½ „ . .	V A . .	9	1	4
34 „ . .	IV B . .	7	2	21
33 „ . .	III C♯ . .	7	1	24

The inscription on the tenor is:

"Six Bells were cast 1811.

"R. M. Whatley, W. House, Churchwardens.

"May all whom I shall summon to the grave,
The blessing of a well-spent life receive.

"Cast at Whitechapel Bell Factory, London."

In 1894 two others were added by the Rev. Prebendary Buller, vicar, namely:

		cwt.	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
II	D♯ . .	6	2	9
Treble	E . .	6	0	7
	Total weight	80	1	7

On the second is inscribed:

"'Praise Him upon the loud cymbals.'

"William Edmund Buller, M.A., vicar, gave me, A.D. 1894."

On the treble:

"'Praise Him upon the well-tuned cymbals.'

"William Edmund Buller, M.A., vicar, gave me, A.D. 1894."

These were cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, 267, Whitechapel Road, London.

The whole now form a complete and beautiful peal. In the ringing chamber is now placed the following:

Church of SS. Peter and Paul, North Curry.

On Saturday, Aug. 6, 1898, in three hours and eight minutes, was rung upon the bells of this church by members of the Bath and Wells Association, a peal of Grandsire Triples.

The first peal on the bells after being restored.

Changes 5040.

J. Maddock.	Rev. H. C. Courtney.
W. Gillard.	L. L. Burgess.
H. Pearse.	H. L. Poole.
F. Millard.	T. Doble.

Conducted by Joseph Maddock.

W. E. Buller, *Vicar.*

William Barrett, } *Churchwardens.*
Hugh P. Olivey, }

In this connection the following old and quaint lines may be quoted, which are painted on a board in the belfry of St. Merryn Church, Cornwall.

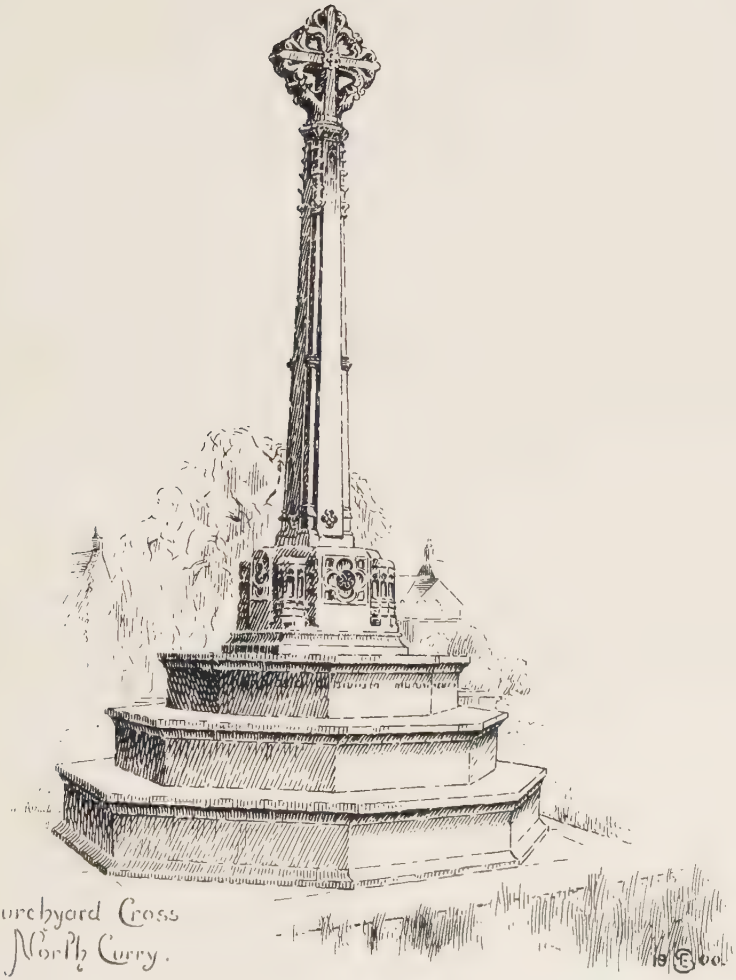
"We ring the quick to church, the dead to grave,
Good is our use, such usage let us have.
Who swears or curses, in a chol'rick mood,
Quarrels or strikes, altho' he draw no blood;
Who wears a Hatt or Spurs, or turns a Bell,
Or by unskilful handling spoils a Peal,
He shall pay sixpence for each single crime,
'Twill make him carefull against another time."

After the completion of this peal, it was found that the ends of the supporting beams of the old cage (about which there is mention of so many repairs being made in the old churchwardens' accounts), had become decayed, and the vibration caused by this, and the cage mortices having become loosened by time, was so great as to threaten injury to the stone-work of the tower. In the year 1898 the vicar placed four iron girders, which were securely bolted to the beams and cage, thus rendering the belfry secure for years to come.

The founders who cast the bells in 1811, were the same firm as were employed in the completion of the peal.

Until the year 1833, the bells were rung from the body of the church, and at that date the outside belfry door was placed, as appears from the accounts, p. 194.

The new clock was also presented by the vicar in 1895.



Churchyard Cross
North Curry.

The Parish or Churchyard Cross. From *Somerset Crosses*, by Charles Pooley, I extract the following: "The beautiful socket and the stump of the shaft of this cross remain. The socket is much weather-worn and partially sunk in the soil. Its upper end is octagonal, the alternate angles being worked into pilasters with trefoil niched facings. Each of the four sides is ornamented with a quatrefoil, in the centre of which a Greek cross is carved. The stump of the shaft has a dowel hole for the insertion of a pin used to support the stone above, and has also quatrefoils on each side of the base. Fourteenth century."

This cross was beautifully restored by the Rev. Prebendary Buller, from designs by Mr. Buckle—the above-named stump being retained—as a memorial to his sister, Miss Florence Buller, in 1891.

When digging for the foundation of this cross, a coin of Ethelred II was found, and is now in the museum of the Somerset Archæological Society at Taunton.

The Charities.

In addition to the Reeve's Feast Charity, which has been described, and which yields the annual sum of £21 14*s.* 9½*d.*; there is a very old charity, being the interest of £50, the source of which has been lost, it is now called *The Unknown Donor's Charity.* It is thus described on a painted board in the vestry: "A sum of fifty pounds left by an unknown benefactor is in the hands of the churchwardens, and the interest thereof is applied from time to time for the benefit of the second poor of the parish. May, 1845."

Sophia Gould's Charity. This is also described on a painted board in the vestry, as being the interest of a sum of £200, bequeathed by Mrs. Scott Gould, of Moredon, Jan. 9, 1869, to be given yearly in bread on October 14, amongst the deserving poor, by the vicar and churchwardens.

Mrs. Robbs' Charity, which is a bequest made in

1892 of the interest of £250, to be given annually in clothing to the poor by the vicar and churchwardens.

There is also a sum of £50 given by the same, the interest to be employed for keeping the churchyard in order.

Miss M. A. Crease's Charity. Being the interest of £200, to be given in coal by the vicar and churchwardens, in January in each year.

The whole of the principal relating to all these charities (except the Reeve's Feast), is invested in Consols through the Charity Commissioners.

The Registers commence in 1539. The old books are of parchment, loosely stitched together. Much of it is beautifully written in old characters, and appears to be copies of the original entries. Some is very badly written and indistinct, and carelessly kept.

With regard to the keeping of parish registers, the first mandate for keeping them was made in the time of Henry VIII, about 1536, by Sir Thomas Cromwell, who was vicar-general, so that those of this parish date from almost the earliest time. This mandate was renewed in more vigorous terms on the accession of Elizabeth, 1558, but not being regularly observed, it was ordained in 1597 that parchment register books should be purchased at the expense of every parish, and that all names in the older books (mostly of paper) should be therein transcribed from 1558. It was at the same time ordered that copies of the registers should be annually forwarded to the episcopal register to be preserved in the episcopal archives. This injunction was so imperfectly carried out, and the duplicates when forwarded were so carelessly kept, that the diocesan registers are mere fragments of what they should be, and are in several cases still in such confusion as to be practically valueless. There are few dioceses that have any earlier than 1660.

Many parishes have lost their early registers, and they are usually deficient or wanting during the Commonwealth. In the case of this parish, they are defective during that period, and then also numerous

entries of marriages occur as having been performed by laymen, probably magistrates. Signatures of such occur as Edward Ceeley, Thos. Courte, John Pyne, etc.

To preserve such registers a scheme has recently been started, and the marriages of this parish up to 1812 have been transcribed, and will be found in vol. ii, *Somerset Parish Registers*, by Messrs. Phillimore and Hayward.

These old register books contain many scraps of local information interpolated in the pages, viz., licence to eat flesh in Lent, storms, national events, etc.

There is an old altar frontal preserved in the vestry, which in its day was a handsome one. It has embroidered on it, "Johan Connock, 1663," and a shield with three cocks' feet; beneath a sacred monogram. This appears to be in memory of the old lady who had a dispensation to eat meat in Lent.

In the marriage register is the entry, "Richard Conucke, esquire, and Mrs. Johan Prideuxe, 8th Aug., 1609."

In the old register book, date 1632, is the following respecting this old lady: "M° that I John Gibbes, vicar of North Curry, have given licence (as much as in me lieth) to Mrs. Johan Conock of North Curry aforesaid, a gentlewoman of about 90 years of age, of much weaknesse and great infirmitie, continually keeping her bed, to eat flesh this Lente such as the laws doe permit, to sustain and nourish nature in her. For witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of March, 1632, By me John Gibbes. M° the same licence I the said John Gibbes have given and continue unto the same Mrs. J. C. In witness I have subscribed my name the 22nd March, John Gibbes. M° the same above written licence I the said J. G. have given and continue to the same Mrs. J. C. In witness, etc. 30 March."

The following entry occurs:

"The stile altered 1752. All the intermediate nominal days from the second of September to the fourteenth of the same month are omitted or rather annihilated this year."

Also: "June 16, 1749. Old stile. A very hard

frost at Uphill in this county, the ice was as thick as a crown piece."

Also the following:

"Nov. 1, 1755. A most dreadful earthquake happened at Lisbon in Portugal wh almost destroyed the whole city. By letters received from thence many thousand persons perish'd. The Jesuits account amounts to 90,000 killed in the whole, others reduce it to 50,000, and some to 30,000. By accounts received from Africa, in that part of Barbary on the opposite coast to Gibraltar, they have suffered as much if not more than in Portugal. At Tetuan, Tangier, Sallee, Fez, Morocco, and Meguinez it is said greater damage has been done in the heart of the country. God preserve us from such a dreadful catastrophe, and comfort those who have suffered in them! By accounts received it appears that the earthquakes have continued for the space of 61 days, that is from the 1st Nov. to 31st Dec. inclusive, in w^h^ space of time they have been felt with more or less violence from the Eastern shores of the Atlantic Oceon to the heart of Germany, and from the frozen climate of Iceland almost to the Tropic of Cancer, taking a range of about 4,000 miles from West to East, and 2,000 miles from South to North. The 6th February, 1756, was appointed for a General Fast and Humiliation to Humble ourselves before Almighty God in a deep sense of His late visitation by a most dreadful and extensive Earthquake, in order to the obtaining the pardon of our crying sins, to the averting of his judgments, and for the continuance of his mercy, which Fast, etc., by accounts was strictly observed throughout these kingdoms."

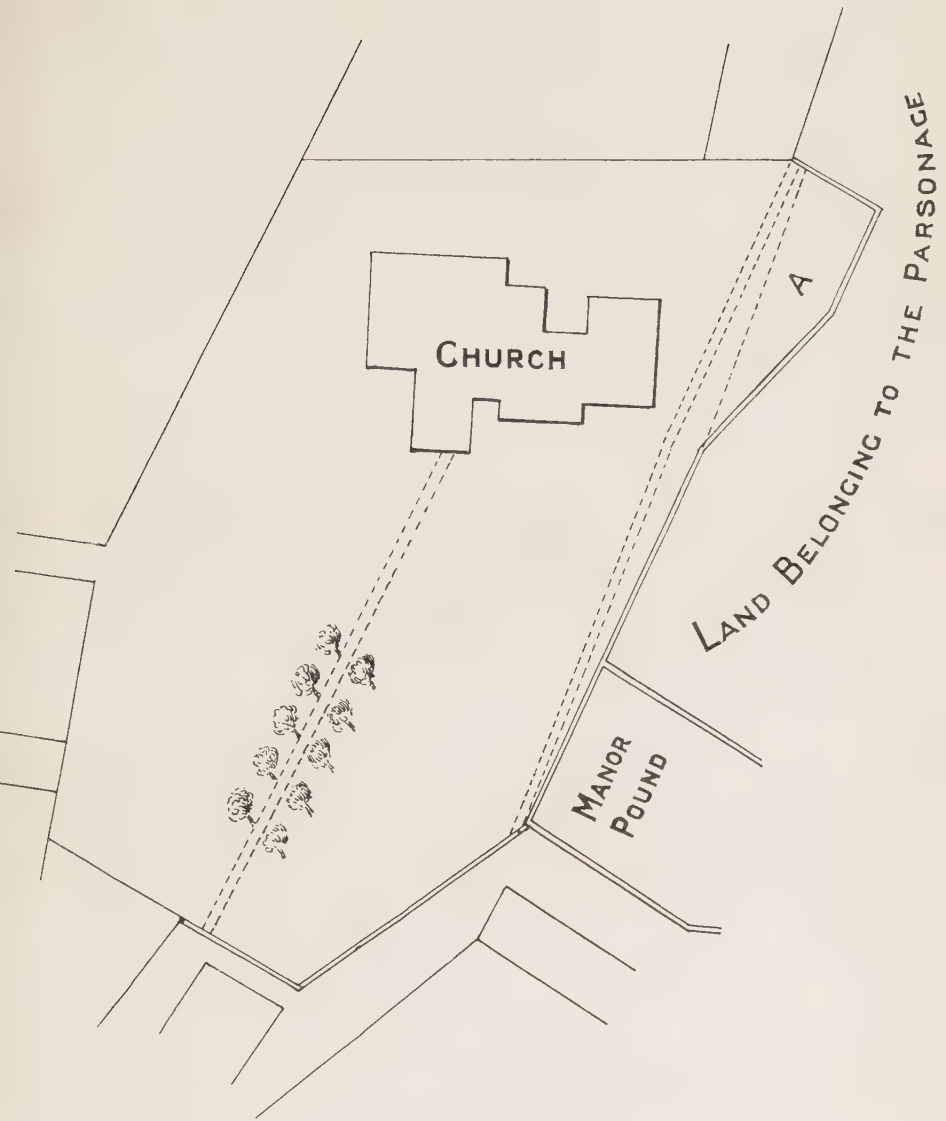
Also: "List of Customary Fees. 1783."

On cover of register book:

"Marriages by Banns, 5*s.* Licence, 10*s.* 6*d.* Churchings, Six Pence.

"Breaking ground for those who die out of y^e^ parish, 6*s.* 8*d.* a common; for an Esquire 13*s.* 4*d.*; a knight, £1 6*s.* 8*d.*

"Clerk's fee, Marriage, 2*s.* 6*d.*, or 5*s.* Licence. Six Pence for his attendance at weekday Xtenings.



Old Plan of Churchyard

Found among old papers of the late Mr. Charles Holcombe Dare with the following note:

	A.	R.	P	
The Church Yard measures exclusive of the part marked A	1	3	31	or 9108 sq. yards
The part marked A measures			13	or 387 do.

Endorsement. In my father's handwriting. Found in an old bible of my mother's
C. W. Dare, 19 Jan., 1890.

Plan of North Curry Churchyard

SCALE One Chain to Inch

T. B. Uthen
North Curry

"Parson entitled to the same mourning as y^e^ Pall bearers, or, no admission to y^e^ Church service, viz., Psalms and Lesson."

Also: "Dec. 6th, 1714. The walk of Elms in the Churchyard leading to the Porch was planted by me. Ezra Pierce, Vicar.

"R. Wescombe.

Vicars of North Curry.

The following is a list of vicars, extracted from Weaver's *Somerset Incumbents.*

Curry North cum Capella de Hacche (*i.e.* West Hatch). (S. Petri).

DATE OF INSTITUTION.	INCUMBENT.	HOW VACATED
1234.	Ric. de Treigoz.	
1256.	Simon Guyan, per mort R. de T.	
1325.	Ric. de Baac (or Baaker).	
1328.	Joh. de Taunton.	
1348.[1]	vj Kal. Mar. John Seyac de Harewell.	
1349.	June 2. Thom. Sanywere.	
	ij Id Martii. Joh. Purie de Trowbrugge.	
	Joh. Mulewarde.	

1. Referring to this period, Weaver in his preface has the following note:

"The black death began in Somersetshire early in 1349." "From the extraordinory number of institutions that took place as the sickness decreased,—often three and four day after day,—it is evident that a large proportion of our clergy perished in this pestilence, which is believed to have carried off one half of the population of the kingdom." "Owing, I suppose, to panic and confusion, the cause of the vacancy is very seldom added."

This statement quite agrees with the above appointments to this parish

On this subject I gather from *Analysis of English History*, by C. W. A. Tait, p. 78:

"1348-1349. First visitation of great pestilence, its effects, (*a*) Diminution of the population one half; (*b*) The rate of wages doubled; (*c*) A consequent change in the management of lands. The modern system of "letting" gradually introduced owing to the difficulty of getting lands cultivated. Commencement of permanent distribution between the farmer and the labourer. (*d*) A series of attempts to fix the rate of wages and to bind the labourer to the soil, beginning with the statute of labourers, 1349 and 1351, leading to discontent of those who lived by manual labour, and finally broke out in rebellion 1381."

DATE OF INSTITUTION.	INCUMBENT.	HOW VACATED.
1410. Mar. 12.	Joh. Craas, per mut. c. J. M.	
1433. Sep. 11.	Tho. Pay, per mut. c. J. C.	
1437. Oct. 28.	Hen. Wegge, per mut. c. T. P.	
1441. Sep. 9.	Hugo Peret, per mut. c. H. W.	
1442. June 28.	Joh. Heeth, per mort. H. P.	
Feb. 5.	Joh. Moreton, S.T.B.	
	Will. North.	
1452. May 17.	Ric. Whyte, per res. W. N.	
1457. Apr. 2.	Tho. Combe als. Baker, per mut. c. R. W.	
1474. Apr. 8.	Joh. Ryche, per mort. T. C.	
	Rob. Gentt.	
1488. May 6.	Joh. Stephyns, per mort. R. G.	
1504. July 1.	Rog. Churche, per mort. J. S.	
July 21.	Will. Capron, per res. R. C.	
1529 Apr. 12.	Ric. Austyn, per mort. W. C.	
1554. Nov. 6.	Joh. Seyman, per res. R. A.	
1569. Nov. 19.	Rad. Dele, per mort.	
1588. Mar. 29.	Joh. Gibbes, A.M., per mort. J. D. (sic)	
1638. Mar. 14.	Sebastian Smith, S.T.B., per mort. J. G.	
1661. Oct. 11.	Hen. Griffith.	

(In an old register is a "Memo. That Henry Griffith all Owen Clerke was inducted 15 Oct. 1661, and "that he immediately after divine service subscribed to the Articles, etc."

Signed H. Owen (Signatures) Edw. Courte, etc.

In the register and other books he appears as H. Owen, and in *Walker II*, p. 324, "a bitter sufferer.")

1686. Dec. 8.	Ludovicus Parris. A.M., per mort. H. G.	
1693. Feb. 11.	Joh. Chester, A.M., per mort. L. P.	
1697. Dec. 16.	Ezra Pierce, A.B., per mort. J. C.	
1732. May 5.	Stephanus Hunt, per mort, E. P.	

End of Weaver's.

In continuation, the following I extract from registers in the Registry Office at Wells.

1739. Dec. 4.	Thomas Farewell.	Death of S. H.

DATE OF INSTITUTION.	INCUMBENT.	HOW VACATED.
1746. Oct. 18.	John Woodford.	Death of T. F.
1760. June 5.	Robert Wilson.	Death of J. W.
1791. May 6.	John Turner.	Death of R. W.
1817. Aug. 1.	James John Talman.	Death of J. T.
1820. July 19.	Walter King Coker.	Death of J. J. T.
1845. Dec. 10.	John Castle Burnett.	Death of W. K. C.

(Up to this period always described in the books as "with Chapelries of Stoke St. Gregory and West Hatch.")

1857. Sep. 14. William Græme Gibson, by cession J. C. B.
1866. July 10. Carter Hall, by cession W. G. G.
1867. Dec. 6. Christopher Robert Harrison, by cession C. H.
1877. Oct. 16. Robert Charles Lathom Browne, by death of C. R. H.
1890. Oct. 6. William Edmund Buller, by cession R. C. L. B.
1901. Jan. 17. Daniel James Pring, by cession W. E. B.

Weaver gives the following particulars of Gregory Stoke:

Capella ad eccles. de N. Curry spectans.
1395. Humf. Shiliere.
1463. Rob. Gent, cap.
Rob. Palfrey, cap.
1535. Oct. 20. Tho Zane, cap.

The following is the only recent entry relating to Stoke to be found in the Wells Register:

1877. Jan. 3. H. F. S. Gurney, P. Curacy by resignation of Richard Watson Moor.

(There is no record of R. W. M.'s induction.)

For West Hatch, the first entry is:

1857. William Parkin, P. Curacy void on the nomination of John Castle Burnett, vicar of N. C.

Churchwardens.

From Church Book No. 1.

1666. John Nurton.
1667, 1668, 1669, 1670. Robert Shepperd and Henry Exon.
1671. Giles Foster and Michael Potter.
1673. Thomas Owen and Thomas Keegar.
1674. Arthur Weaver and John Smith.
1675. Robert Hill, junr., and John Derham.
1676. Thomas Courte and Thomas Brayly.
1677. Thomas Rowsell and John Wadham.
1678. William Verrier and Edward Derham.
1679. Henry Foster and William Brounsford.
1680.[1] Robert Handole, senr., and Henry Nurton.
1681. Lawrence Fox and John Nurton.
1682. Amos Burd and William Smith.
1683. Henry Steevens and John Hurston.
1684. Richard Rowsell and Richard Jeanes.
1685. Symond Sharpe and John Saxon.
1686. Ralph Thring and John Goodland.
1687. ditto ditto
1688. William Morris and Laurence Hurston.
1689. Josia Crocker and Anthony Larcombe.
1690. Samuell Powell and Edward Watts.
1691. Robert Hill and Edward Derham.
1692. William Hurston and Ralph Clothier.
1693. Andrew Wadham and Henry Stone.
1694-6. Robert Fox and William Androse.

1. The Rev. Prebendary Coleman, in an article in the Somerset Archæological *Proceedings*, vol. xviii, gives the following presentment of the churchwardens of North Curry for the year 1680:

"Somset / North Cory / Peculiar } The P'sentment of the churchwardens of the Parish Church of North Curry duly elected for the year 1680.

Wee p'sent Henry Foster, William Brounsford, church wardens of last yeare, and Wm. Verrier and Edw. Derham als. Farmer, Churchwardens for the year before, for that they with the confederacy of John Fox and John Sanddy, Thomas Owen, and Robert Hill, jr., did take downe a bell out of the Tower of the Parish Church of North Curry afd., the same bell did carry away and refuse to bring it again to the damage of the p'shioners of the sd. Parish forty Pounds. Robert Handall, Hennery Nurton."

1697. Richard Coggin and Nicholas Bridge.
1698. Edward Sperring and William Hurston.
1699. William Bower.
1700. William Hunter and Henry Pococke.
1701. William Tice and John Ludwell.
1702. John Stevens and Robert Ceeley.
1703. Thomas Rowswell and John Nurton.
1704. Robert Hill and Charles Weaver.
1705-6. Thomas Rowswell and Artear Weaver.
1707. Robert Hooper and William Tuttiett.
1708. Alexander Potenger and John Moor.
1709. Thomas Hooper and Thomas Edwards.
1710. Robert Wescombe and William Brounsford.
1711-12. William Foster and Thomas Wadham.
1713. William Mead and John Foster.
1714-15. Nicholas Bridge and Matthew Pileman.
1716. Anthony Coggan and John Hurston.
1717. John Saxon and Francis Derham.
1718-19. Thomas Ware and Christopher Handoll.
1720. Henry Foster and Edward Samme.
1721. Malachi Stroud and John Facy.
1722. Thomas Were and William Mead.
1723. John Weaver and Richard Coggan.

It will be observable how strictly up to this period the rule or law was observed that "no churchwarden should hold office for more than one year." (27 Hen. VIII.)

Now occurs an hiatus, and no churchwardens' accounts or books can be found until 1821 ; unfortunately the records of nearly one hundred years are missing.

1821. Robert L. Long and James Faun, to 1823.
1824. Robert Ludwell Long and Charles Barrington were elected. "R. L. Long and James Faun, their accounts not having been fully made up, are continued churchwardens for another year. Henry Gould, official."
1825. The same to 1827.
1828. Robt. L. Long and William House, to 1834.
1835. John Scott Gould and Charles Barrington, to 1840.
1841. John Scott Gould and Philip Foster, to 1846.
1847. Philip Foster and William Hurman, to 1851.

1852. Philip Foster and Charles Barrington, jr., to 1856.
1857. Philip Foster and James Temlett, to 1858.
1859 Philip Foster and William Hurman to 1862.
1863. Philip Foster and George Crease, to 1866.
1867. William Barrett and Isaac Palmer Smith, to 1869.
1870. Isaac Palmer Smith and William Barrett, to 1877.
1878. William Barrett and James B. Hellard, to 1880.
1881. William Barrett and Charles Lockyer, to 1889.
1890. William Barrett and Hugh P. Olivey, to 1898.
1899. William Barrett and W. Winter Goode, to 1900.

Until the year 1845, the vicar of North Curry has held the living with the chapelries of Stoke St. Gregory and West Hatch. In relation to Stoke St. Gregory: In 1395, Humphrey Shiliere was appointed chaplain. The following occurs in *Wells MSS.*, p. 183: "Indenture made between dean and chapter and Humphrey Shiliere, chaplain; the latter is to have all the altilagium of the chapel of Stoke St. Gregory in North Curry parish, with house and tithes for seven years, or payment of 100 shillings a year, etc." There are many entries in the *Wells MSS.* of chaplains for both Stoke and West Hatch, but always the vicar of North Curry has been also the vicar of these two parishes up to a very recent date. His name will frequently appear at their parish meetings as "vicar."

The Rev. H. F. S. Gurney may claim the honour of being the first vicar of Stoke St. Gregory as a distinct ecclesiastical parish. He is described in the Wells register as "perpetual curate by resignation of the Rev. R. W. Moor," and by act 31 and 32 Vict. c. 117: "The incumbent of every parish or new parish for ecclesiastical purposes not being a rector, shall be styled vicar."

The same applies to West Hatch, which was made a distinct parish in 1856, and in 1857 the Rev. Wm. Parkin was appointed to the "perpetual curacy," on the nomination of the Rev. J. C. Burnett, vicar of

North Curry. The present vicar, the Rev. A. D. Reece, was appointed in 1880.

A re-arrangement of tithes and glebe was made by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners about the year 1866, about which time the stipends of Stoke and West Hatch were augmented, and the exchange took place of the North Curry vicarage house for the present one. The glebe, which now consists of eighty acres of land, was then increased by the addition of twenty-five acres in lieu of the vicarial tithes of Stoke St. Gregory, which had originally belonged to North Curry. The present vicarage was formerly the "parsonage," being the residence of the late lay impropriator, Charles Holcombe Dare, Esq., and his son, Charles William Dare, Esq., afterwards owned it: it was built by the former about the year 1815. Additions were made to it by the Rev. C. R. Harrison in 1866. It is beautifully situated in a well wooded park, and from the back is an extensive view over the moor and a large expanse of country beyond. The vicar of North Curry has every reason to be proud of his splendid church and beautifully situated vicarage, and may justly consider that his lines have fallen in pleasant places.

The Climate is mild, but damp and chilly in winter, and more particularly in rainy seasons, when the air is filled with moisture from the moors being frequently flooded. It is proverbial of the Vale of Taunton Deane, of which this is a portion, that the soil is rich and the climate temperate.

Formerly, before certain improvements in drainage, and before the extensive cultivation of willows (which appear to have an absorptive power in malarial districts), ague was very prevalent in spring. Rheumatic ailments are common.

Orchards flourish, and in spring-time, when the trees are in bloom, they form a beautiful feature in the landscape.

Timber. Elm is the principal timber, and although almost confined to the hedgerows, the country has the

appearance of being beautifully wooded, and looks not unlike one vast park There are numerous splendid specimens, and those forming the avenue of the churchyard, now nearly two hundred years old, and falling into decay, are very fine, and conspicuous for a long distance.[1] The domesday record speaks of there having been at that day seven acres of vineyard, but where situated is not clear. There is no doubt that in some favourable seasons grapes ripen well, and good wine may be made.

Geologically there is not much to be said. The soil is a stiff clay, very productive with a marl or flinty sub-soil. The moor or low lands, consisting of alluvial deposits, are very rich and fertile, and splendid grazing ground. A good quality of grey sandstone is found along the ridge from Knapp to Moredon and beyond, which has been used extensively in the church, school, Moredon House, etc., but a good bed is difficult to obtain on account of its depth, and consequently it is very little used. The Queen's College, Taunton, is built of this stone, obtained from a quarry at Knapp.

It is noticeable that very few *monuments* exist in the church. The reason may probably be that the inhabitants being almost all tenants of the manor, most being copyholders, there were few great resident families. There are several mural tablets on which are the names of Gould, Hooper, Barrett, Plowman, Long, Ludwell, Hellard, Coker, King, Meade, etc.; but with the exception of two stone monuments and two brasses there is nothing of any antiquity. The stone monument in the chancel has an indistinct inscription on the fold of the skirt, which is supposed to be "Thoma—atte Sloo," which refers to a former owner of Slough, Stoke St. Gregory. Col. Bramble judges its date to be about 1360. In the *Wells MSS.* mention is made of "John atte Sloo," A.D. 1355, and "John de la Sloo," A.D. 1350, also "Galfr de la Slo," 1280, and "Roger de la Slo," 1247, but none of "Thoma." The date of "John" corresponds with that

1. Planted by Ezra Pierce, vicar, 1714. See p. 103.

suggested by Col. Bramble. It seems more probable the inscription is "John."

The other stone monument is a "cadaver," or an emaciated figure. Underneath the effigy are figures dressed as friars telling their beads. Col. Bramble, in his reference to it (which is to be found in vol. xliv, Som. Arch. *Proceedings*), thinks it might have come from Athelney at the dissolution of the monastery.

The brasses are to John Buller the younger, of Lillesdon, esq., dated 1598, and to Elizabeth his wife, 1587. In the registers are several entries relating to the Bullers. They were at Lillesdon before Courte. Thomas Courte is churchwarden here in 1676, and Edward Courte's name appears in the registry of marriages as having married a couple in 1657. In the church of Stoke St. Gregory are two handsome mural monuments to the Courtes, on which the above Edward is described as of Lillesdon. The names of several of these occur in the North Curry rate book as large ratepayers, and also in the Stoke St. Gregory books.

When the church was undergoing restoration in 1882, the following inscription was found on a stone which had been covered up by the flooring of the chancel, probably in the restoration in 1832, to the memory of the first wife of a Perrett. The stone is now covered by the flooring of the chancel stalls. The said Perrett was formerly lay impropriator, and on that ground probably claimed burial in the chancel.

"In the flower of my age was I
In the year of twenty-nine loth to die
Before that I was taken hence
To live for ever in God's presence
In love I liv'd in peace I died
Life was desir'd but God denied
Tho' death have parted you and me
My body to dust must turn
I hope that we shall meet again
You have no cause to mourn."

There are some curious inscriptions in the churchyard. On the cover of a large tomb of the Pococks is: "My good lads, do not sit on this stone on account

you do disfigure it with your heels, lean on it if you please. Yours, etc., Robt. Pocock." On another stone is: "Mrs. Doctress Poundsberry, died 11 Dec., 1813. Ag. 73." In the baptismal register she appears as "Doctress Ann, daug[r] of Robert Derham and Joan his wife, bap[d] Dec. 10, 1734," and in the register of marriages, "John Pounsbery to Docteris Ann Derham, 23 Nov., 1762," probably she was the seventh daughter, and was therefore supposed to be possessed of the gift of healing, hence her christian name. It was not unusual, however, for women to act in a medical capacity in those days, as many entries in the parish accounts show. Mrs. Legg, wife of the curate at West Hatch, charges "for physick and unguents and bleeding severall poore people." What Mrs. Legg could not accomplish Mr. Legg appears to have done, as he is paid 10*s.* "for setting and curinge y[e] collar bone of Joane White's necke."

Old Houses.—There are some old houses in the district worthy of mention, the most important being Lillesdon Court and Slough. Lillesdon Court is an old manor house, and appears to have had many occupants, and there has been generally some connection between its owners and those of Slough. It now shows the old mullioned windows, and evidence of the remains of an old substantial building. Here was a chapel dedicated to St. Martin in A.D. 1317 (*Wells MSS.*, p. 182), and in 1355 is mentioned in the same (p. 180), the endowment of a chantry in North Curry for the lord and lady of Lillesdon. The earliest reference to Lillesdon is that it was in the time of Edw. I (1272–1307), "the land of Balderic de Nonington, who held it of the king of the honour of the castle of Carisbrook, Isle of Wight" (Collinson). A.D. 1297. He is mentioned as one of a jury to try Hugh de la Hele and John de Knappe for misappropriating a portion of the king's tenth for which they were collectors, and he became bail for Hugh de la Hele.[1] In Inquisitiones P.M. of Somerset, Balderic

1. See page 11.

Lillisdon Court.

de Noneton is named. 3 Edw. II (1310). In 1311 John de Bello Campo is mentioned in *Wells MSS.* In 1317, Hugh de Bello-Campo (or Beauchamp) appears to be the owner by reference given relating to the chapel there.

Collinson says: "In 1330 John Brodhome (? error for Proudhou) granted to Richard de Stapledon a moiety of the manor of Lillesdon for life, and it was afterwards possessed by the Bonvilles and Wykes of Ninehead." This moiety was probably Slough, and here may be the key to the solution of the knotty point as to how the family of Monte-Acuto or Mentecute came to Stoke St. Gregory, and for the appearance of the tomb in the churchyard there having the arms of Montague with the initials I. M.

In the Inquisitiones Post Mortem of Somerset is "Stapledon, Richard de, see Proudhou, John," and on referring to John Proudhou is found "Proudhou, John de, pro Richard de Stapledon. 3 Edw. III" (1330). The date agrees with Collinson's statement. And in the same Inquisition another entry is "Stapleton, Brian de, see Monte-Acuto, William de"; on referring to that name is "Monte-Acuto, William de, earl of Salisbury, pro Brian de Stapleton. 42 Edw. III (1369).

[1]In 1363, John Beauchamp, knight, is called "lord of Lillesdon" (*Wells MSS.*, p. 204). In 1731, he was a member of parliament for Somerset. In 1554, *William Lyte*, of *Lillesdon*, armiger, is "ward of Thomas, son of Anthony Norton, the late holder of half the manor of Stathe by military tenure" (*Wells MSS.*, p. 239). 1587, John Buller the younger is at Lillesdon, as is shown by brasses in the church, and his name and those of several of his family appear in the parish registers about this period.

1662. Is Edward Courte, whose name appears in parish books, 1666, and on the monument in the

1. In A.D. 1343-4, four pounds of wax are entered in the cathedral account for the obsequies of Isabella de Courtneya and John de Bello Campo (*Wells MSS.*, p. 274). A John de Beauchamp was member for Somerset in 1307, 1314, and 1316. Thomas Beauchamp in 1399. Robert de Bello-Campo was sheriff in 1162, and 1175 to 1181.

church of Stoke St. Gregory, describing him as of Lillesdon, together with Edward his son and Alexander his brother, and other members of his family.

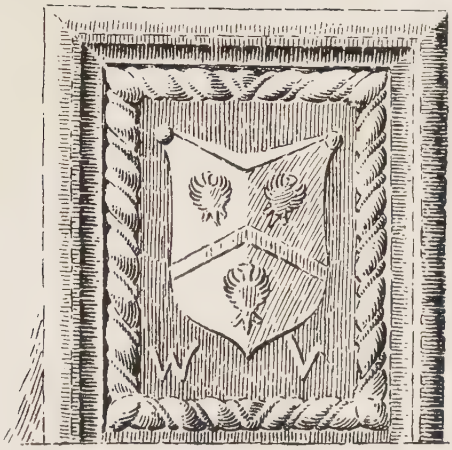
In 1790, when Collinson wrote, Collins was the owner,[1] and from him through the late H. P. Gore Langton, Esq., it has descended to the present owner, the Hon. H. P. Gore Langton, who is also the owner of Slough.

There is another house having the character of an old manor house in the village worthy of notice. It has over the arched doorway a shield with the arms said to be of Wadham, and the initials W. W. I find no resemblance between this and Wadham. It much more resembles that of Sealey which appears at the head of a stone in the church at West Hatch, and the same is seen on the barn wall at Meare Court Farm. There are also the initials R. S. and date 1570 on a label over one of the windows. I am unable to give any information as to its history.

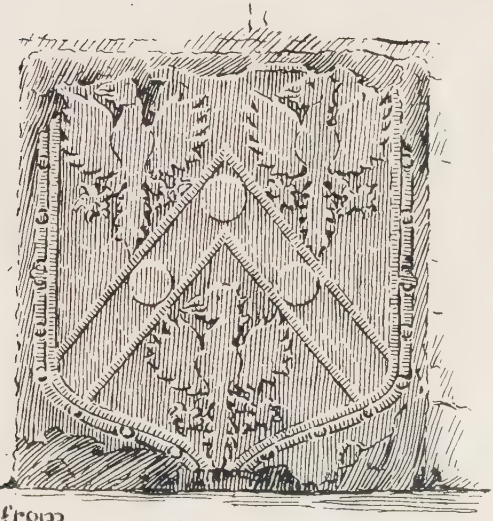
The Queen's Jubilee Monument, which is situated in the centre of the village, consists of a handsome cross, from designs by Mr. Buckle, the diocesan architect; and was built by Mr. C. Trask, of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, at a cost of £250. It is a triangular, arched structure, with a central spire finished with a Victoria Cross, and is built of Ham Hill stone on blue lias steps. Above each arch is a carved panel, one having the royal arms, another the star of India, and a third St. George and Dragon, with cross and initials "S. M." and "S. G." At the corners are carved the rose, shamrock, and thistle. Where the points of the arch meet inside is the motto: "Tria juncta in uno." Over the head of each arch is the appropriate motto for each carving: "Dieu et mon droit," "Auspicium melioris ævi" (a pledge of better times), "Heaven's light our guide." The following inscrptiion is placed on the supporting pillars in three portions: "Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria completed

1. 1757. In the church rate for Stoke St. Gregory is, "John Collins, Esq., for Slough Farm."

Manor Farm
North Curry.



Arms over Doorway
Manor Farm.



Arms from
Meare Court Farm.

Jubilee Memorial
North Curry.

the 60th year of her reign on June 20th, 1897. This monument was placed here by the loyal and grateful people of North Curry." In addition to the erection of this monument, the sum of £87 was subscribed for an outdoor fête, which was held on the Jubilee day.

The Stocks.—The remains of the stocks existed until a few years ago. They were situated in the churchyard on the right of the entrance gate. A very perfect specimen exists at Stoke St. Gregory. Every parish was bound to provide a pair of stocks. Originally they were not to punish, but to keep men in hold until they could conveniently be taken before a justice. But later statutes gave the constable power as a punishment for disorderly conduct, drunkenness, etc., more particularly occurring late at night. Another curious means of punishment was the "Cucking Stool" (or tumbrel), reference is made to this in the West Hatch accounts. It was used for punishing women, when disorderly or scolds, by ducking them in water.

The Somersetshire Dialect.—In the expressions of the people many provincialisms linger which are rapidly disappearing under the influences of modern education. In vol. xviii, Som. Arch. *Proceedings*, is a glossary of these by Mr. Elworthy. Most of those named are very general here, and to them I am able to add a few. To any but a native they are often very puzzling. I was once told when a person pleaded for a reduced fee, "We be norbuteinters," meaning only renters or tenants; "nor but," nothing but, is very common. I was also once told, "I do like to see a man hurn to his work," the word "hurn," or "urn," to run. His meaning was, he liked to see a man eager or take delight in his work. "Thesm" and "thosm," "or thesme," or "thosme," for these and those. "Ar-a-one" for any, and "nar-a-one" for none. "Bivver," to tremble; "cream," to shiver (all of a cold cream). "A few broths," a basin of broth. "Amper," a pimple. "Addle," an abcess or fester. "Becal," to call any name but the right one. "Dare up," to raise or fix up; this word occurs in the old

churchwardens accounts, "When they dared up the lyent." "Mommet," a scarecrow. "Nummet," the eleven o'clock (? no meat). "Nosset," an invalid's dish. "Ponted," bruised. "Perl," to spin. "Tilty," cross, and many others. A common mode of expression is, Mr. —— belongs to that house, not that it belongs to Mr. ——. This is surely a remnant of very old days, when they talked of John de Knappe, John de Sloo, Thomas de Meare, and many others.

From about the year 1760 to 1820, *Church matters* were in a very unhappy and unsettled condition in this and the adjoining parishes of Stoke St. Gregory and West Hatch. There were two law suits in the high court respecting the payment of vicarial tithes, and questions were tried as to the custom regulating the same. The dispute appears to have arisen as a set-off against the persistent neglect and non-residence of the vicar, and his not providing a resident curate. In the first, Wilson against Hooper, 8th May, 1775. "The vicar of North Curry with the chapelries of West Hatch and Stoke Gregory, otherwise Stoke St. Gregory, thereto annexed, claimed the small tithes in kind yearly arisen there on the lands of the def[ts] for ten years past.

"The defendent Hooper said that the plaintiff was he believed presented to the vicarage and chapelries at the time mentioned in the bill (1760), but that he had not either by himself or by a curate duly performed the cure thereof, for that, especially of late years, he had seldom resided therein, and had wholly omitted divine service in the said church and chapelries for twelve months together, since June, 1760; that he had frequently married persons in the said parish without publishing the banns or having any licence; and he was not entitled to the tithes in kind claimed by the bill; for that the several moduses following were payable at Easter in lieu thereof."

The chief point appears to have been whether the vicar was entitled to the tithe in kind of all milk arising from the defendant's cows, and other the inhabitants of the said parish and chapelries or to any

or what modus? To decide this, the court ordered a feigned action to be brought against Hooper, Collins, and Vaining, and after making the above decree, the plaintiff Wilson waived his demand of tithe milk in kind, and thereby admitted that there were such moduses in lieu thereof.

The second action was 23 February, 1781.

Hooper against Wilson.

"The plaintiffs as well on behalf of themselves as of all others the owners and occupiers of lands in the parish of North Curry, with the chapelries of West Hatch and Stoke Gregory, stated that the parish of North Curry had been and then was a distinct parish, with one parish church and churchyard or burial ground thereto adjoining; that the parishes of Stoke St. Gregory and West Hatch altho' called chapelries annexed to North Curry, had been immemorially and then were distinct parishes, with a churchyard and burial ground thereto belonging; that the said three parishes were then called by the name of the parish of North Curry, with the chapelries aforesaid annexed; that they then and for many years passed had been deemed one vicarage, and had one and the same patron and vicar." It then goes on to recite the customs relating to tithes, which are too lengthy to recapitulate here.

The result is: the court ordered the following issues to try, First, the modus of *2s.* a score of sheep shorn in lieu of tithe wool. Secondly, the modus of *1d.* a score a week in lieu of the agistment of tithe of sheep depastured. Thirdly, a modus of *1s.* a hogshead of cyder. Fourthly, whether the vicar holds the acre of woodland in lieu of tithe wood. Fifthly, whether the Easter offerings are *2d.* for a single person. Sixthly, and *4d* for a married person.

The issues were ordered to be tried by a special jury.

The vicar declined to try the issues, and on 23 Nov., 1781, they were directed to be taken as confessed. The cause came on to be further heard on 3 July, 1782, when the said moduses were ordered to be established, but without costs.

The following is a summary of the vicarial or small

tithes payable in the parishes of North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, and West Hatch, as admitted and confirmed by the decrees made in the suit of Robert Wilson, clerk, against Henry Hooper and others, instituted in the Court of Exchequer, in the year 1769, and determined in the year 1782.

Modus payable annually at Easter:

2*d.* for a man, 4*d.* for a man and his wife, as a modus in lieu of Easter offerings.

Denied: 2*d.* for every other person in y^e^ family of the age of 16 y^rs^ or upwards.

1*d.* yearly, called a Garden Penny, in lieu of tythes in kind of all kinds of herbs and seed and garden stuff of what kind soever.

2*d.* in lieu of tythe milk of every milch cow.

1½*d.* in lieu of tithe milk of every heifer.

2*d.* for every calf fallen under 7, and 2*d.* if 7, 8, 9, or 10; 8*d.* after the first ten; y^e^ like sum of 8*d.* for every tenth calf in lieu of tythes in kind of calves.

If any or either of the calves under seven were sold to pay the tenth part of the money arising from such sale, or if killed, the tenth part of the value of such calf; and if reared, 2*d.* each calf.

2*s.* 6*d.* for the fall of a colt.

£1 1*s.* for every tenth colt, in lieu of tythe in kind of colts.

2*s.* for every score of sheep in lieu of tythe wool.

2*s.* 6*d.* for every tenth lamb in lieu of tythes in kind lamb.

½*d.* for every lamb under 7. If 7, 8, 9, or 10, 2*s.* 6*d.*; and if 7, 8, 9, or 10, after the first 10 the like sum of 2*s.* 6*d.*, in discharge of the tythe of wool of such lambs from the fall to the shearing thereof.

2*s.* 6*d.* for every tenth pig in lieu of tythes in kind of pigs.

6*d.* for every tenth goose in lieu of tythes in kind of geese.

1*s.* for every hogshead of cyder in lieu of tythes in kind of apples.

No tythes in kind of wool, or agistment for barren and unprofitable cattle.

No tythe on goose feathers ever payable.

Persons occupying lands in the said parish and chapelries, and not residing therein, to pay:

1*s.* 8*d.* in the pound upon account of the yearly rent of such lands, as a modus in lieu of the agistment tythe of all manner of cattle or otherwise, that such non-residing occupier was to pay for the depasturing of his cattle at the option of the vicar at the rate following (*i.e.*), the sum of 4*d.* per month for every score of sheep, as a modus in lieu of tythes in kind of wool, and the several other moduses before stated.

The vicar, Mr. Wilson, who was also a canon of Wells, and against whom there is such a grave charge made in the commencement of this law-suit for non-residence and neglect, held the living until 1791, when he died, and was succeeded by the Rev. John Turner, who was also archdeacon. He appears to have been non-resident. Neglect and scandals occurred which led to remonstrances from the inhabitants, and to some newspaper articles reflecting on the state of the church in the three parishes. No regular services were held, and other duties were neglected, and even at Stoke St. Gregory a corpse was buried without a service, the service being read over the grave a few days after by a passing clergyman. It is also stated that for a space of thirteen weeks no service was held in the church of West Hatch.

It was at this period the following advertisement for a curate appears; such a handsome offer was probably without result.

"To the Clergy.

"Wanted a Curate to serve the parish churches of North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, and West Hatch in this county, but a short distance from each other. Any gentleman desirous of engaging in the duties thereof will be allowed a salary of £50 per ann. and a residence in y^e^ vicarage house, or £60 per ann. if he choses to reside in either of y^e^ s^d^ parishes, not in the s^d^ house.

"For particulars apply to ——"

Attention appears to have been drawn to this liberal offer in the local papers, and there being probably no applicant, the following appears:

"Eligible curacy worth £100 per annum. Wanted immediately a resident Curate for the living of North Curry in the County of Somerset.

"North Curry is situate in a pleasant part of the County, distant about seven miles from Taunton, ten from Bridgwater, and there is a good parsonage house for the Curate's residence.

"Further particulars may be had, if by letter post paid, of Mr. Welsh, Solicitor, Wells. Feb. 10, 1814."

Whether or not this met with the desired result I am not aware. I presume matters were not much mended, as on the death of Mr. Turner in 1817, when the Rev. James John Talmen was appointed as his snccessor, the following petition was presented to him by the inhabitants.

"The inhabitants of the parish of North Curry to the Rev. J. J. Talmen.

"Rev. Sir,—You having informed us of the vicarage of this and the annexed parishes having been conferr'd on you, and of your intention to appoint a curate to officiate for you, and your desire that he should be approved of by the parishioners: we therefore respectfully inform you that it is our ernest wish to have a minister who will reside here and faithfully preach the great truths of the Gospel, visit the sick and poor, and otherwise discharge the duties belonging to his sacred office, the which we have observed with much concern heretofore neglected.

"And as it has been reported that his Lordship the Bishop of Gloucester has been desirous to nominate a curate hereto, we beg further to add that we shall feel ourselves highly obliged to you by your acceding to his Lordship's nomination, as we are led to understand he has the interests of the inhabitants of these parishes much at heart.

"We have no other motive in addressing this to you than that of expressing our own as well as the desires of the numerous poor devolved to your care, and we are firmly persuaded that by your attention hereto, the interests of the established Church in this and the adjoining parishes will be considerably

strengthened and promoted. We desire to remain, Rev. Sir, your most respectful and obedient servants,

John Sweeting.	Philip Foster.
John Glide.	John H. Foster.
John Bobbett.	Robert Pocock.
Charles Totterdell.	John Andrews.
Wm. Stacey.	Robt. Meade.
John Hill.	James Crease.
Nathaniel Marks.	John Edwards.
Edwd. Bellringer.	Saml. Edwards.
Law. Gudridge.	Isaac Smith.
R. H. Scott.	T. P. Sweeting.

And about thirty more.

North Curry, Aug. 1, 1817."

Prior to this, namely on Sept. 18, 1815, a long petition was addressed to the bishop of Gloucester, who was also dean of Wells, and a copy of the same sent to the dean and chapter. This commences with particulars of the three parishes, area, population, distances from each other, etc., and goes on to say: "Divine service is not performed in either of the churches of North Curry and Stoke St. Gregory more than five times in six weeks, and in the church of West Hatch more than once in three weeks," and "these churches have been served by curates who have irregularly performed the duties, and been most part of the time non-resident in either of the parishes, some of them have been known latterly to have resided upwards of ten miles distant, and the neglects and omissions of duty resulting therefrom have been almost unparalleled." It goes on to mention the depraved and ignorant condition of the people, of frequent crime, and of there being no resident magistrate within the hundred; and praying for a "better and more frequent performance of Divine Service in these parishes," and "for a resident vicar or minister of respectability and independence, who will correct the morals of the inhabitants and the many frequent abuses which now exist."

Signed Robt. Hooper Scott.
John H. Foster.
Philip Foster.

The reply of the dean is: "Sept. 26, 1815." After expressing concern that the duties have been so negligently performed, "But I must observe that, unless I am misinformed, the annual sum to the vicar out of this opulent and extensive parish is wholly inadequate to supply two ministers, even if one of them were the incumbent, and I cannot but ascribe the deficiency of duty in part to this cause. Defective and careless performance of the stated services, and inattention to the spiritual wants of the people during the week cannot be excused.

"Signed B. Gloucester and Dean of Wells."

1820, May 6. The following entry is in the churchwardens accounts:

"Pointing windows and tolling the bell on the death of Rev. Mr. Talman, 5*s*."

On July 19, 1820, the Rev. Walter King Coker was appointed vicar, and in the same account as the above is, "Sept. 29. Rev. Mr. Halliday, curate, for copying the Register two years, £2 2*s*." A curate is now appointed. In the account for 1821, Jan. 24th, is, "Postage of Rev. W. K. Coker's Licence for non-residence, 8*d*."

In this year the Rev. H. P. Gale was curate, so probably there were two.

With the appointment of Mr. Coker came a better order of things. Although at first there appears to be a "licence for non-residence," it seems to be only temporary, and the names of two curates are mentioned as having been appointed. The. Rev. R. Watson Moor will be affectionately remembered by many of the present generation. He came as one of Mr. Coker's curates, and during his vicariate became the perpetual curate of Stoke St. Gregory, which was the first step in the division of the parishes. In the time of the next vicar, the Rev. J. C. Burnett, West Hatch was made a perpetual curacy by the appointment of the Rev. William Parkin.

Both these parishes are now made into separate vicarages.

I find the following among some old notes:

"A Terrier of North Curry, dated 1613. First

there belongeth to it a vicarage house with a garden, dove house, and church yard for the [?) thereof, etc."

"Mr. George Pierce, Minister of North Curry, ejected for nonconformity ab[t] the year 1660."

No mention is made of him in the list of vicars.

The following indistinct memo. on the back of an old paper appears to show that there was a vicarage house at Stoke St. Gregory in 1768:

"Rect[s] from 1760 up to A.D. 1768 for the vicarage house at Stoke let to Wm. Pierce at £1 6*s*., also of a piece of Glebe Land at 10*s*. 6*d*., p[r] acc[t] in Mr. Cannon Wilson's own handwriting."

"Table of fees.

	Minister.				
For opening a vault or interment in the church . . .	£3	3	0	10	6
Erecting Head stone . . .	1	1	0		
Breaking Ground in the Church yard		13	4	2	6
Marriage by Licence . . .	1	1	0	10	6
„ Banns . . .		14	0	7	0
Each occasional Duty or Service on Week day . . .		2	6	1	0

Jn[o] Woodman, Parish Clerk."

"Mem[o] that on the 24th day of Oct., 1776. John Woodman was sworn into the office of Clerk of the Parish of North Curry in the County of Somerset, before the Rev. John Turner, Clerk, M.A., Surrogate of the Rev. Chas Moss, Clerk, M.A., official of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Andrews in Wells, in the County aforesaid, lawfully constituted, now void by the death of John England the last clerk thereof, at the nomination of the said John Turner, vicar of the parish."

March 24, 1812. Copy of request to the churchwardens to correct the disorders in the church, etc.

"To Mr. William House and Churchwardens of North Curry. We the undersigned parishioners having heard of sundry complaints of disorderly conduct both at Ale-Houses and at the Church on Sundays, do hereby request you will in virtue of your

office visit and cause the Ale-Houses to be regularly visited at the hours of divine service, and that yon deal with such persons found tippling therein according to law, and also that you require the Sexton to order all persons standing without the Church doors during the performance of divine service, to enter the Church or leave the yard, and also that he require any persons who may hereafter behave improperly in the aisles or any other part of the Church to desist, or in default of either of these cases that he report the name of such persons to you, as also of any person he sees enter the church under intoxication, and that you take proper steps to prevent any such disorder in future. And also that you order in future that the bells be not rung during the usual service hours both in the morning and afternoon, whether the service be performed here or not. Dated North Curry, March 24, 1813.

William Long. Philip Foster.
John H. Foster. R. H. Scott."
Chas. Holcombe Dare.

The River Tone passing through this parish is an important feature, both with regard to its value in draining a large area and to its utility, more in the past however than the present, as a water-way for commerce. That it was so for this parish many entries show, and *Ham* in particular was an important inland port, supplying, even up to very recent times, a large district. In the churchwardens' accounts "Knapp Bridges" is named as the place to which "lead" was taken from the church for transit to Taunton and Bridgwater, and the charge for "Lockage" is mentioned. The river was also an important fishery belonging to the lords, and is so referred to in the Domesday records. In the report of *Wells MSS.*, p. 145, is a long account of a litigation between the lords and the bishop of Winchester who owned the manor of Taunton, for putting up certain weirs at Ham, by which the land above was much flooded. There is a full account of the Tone in J. Savage's *History of Taunton*, published in 1822, of which much of the following is a summary.

The first who formed the scheme of making the Tone navigable was John Mallet of Enmore. It was commenced in the thirteenth year of Charles I (1638). Mr. Mallet undertook it at his own expense. He having died, letters patent were granted to his successors in 36 Charles II (1683), granting to them the sole navigation of the river as far as Ham mills. In 1698, thirty gentlemen of Taunton formed a scheme for completing the navigation, not only as far as Ham mills, but also from thence to Taunton. A transfer was made from the successors of Mallet in 10 king William (1699), and £330 was paid. An act was passed 10 and 11 William III for the improvement of the navigation of the river, and the thirty gentlemen and their successors were appointed *Conservators of the River Tone.* They had powers to dig and improve the passage, and remove obstructions, and to build bridges, locks, etc., and to make a path along the sides, and to charge tolls. Distinctive tolls were charged as between Bridgwater and Ham mills and Ham mills and Taunton. Knapp bridges was made a chief spot to collect the dues; and boats passing beyond Ham mills were to pay a further toll at the first or lowermost lock near Ham Mills, called Coal Harbour. Boats passing from Taunton towards Bridgwater were subject to similar tolls. The conservators were to reimburse themselves, principal and interest, at six per cent., and any surplus arising after paying for repairs of bridges, etc., was to be disposed of for the use of the poor of Taunton, in building one or more hospitals for the poor children, to be governed by the conservators.

So prosperous a state of things was never realized. To the 24th June, 1707, £3,556 had been expended, and instead of its being productive, it was not completed. The river was not navigable in winter, much less in summer, for want of a lock at Round Island by Ham mills, and removing a shoal called Broad Shoal by Knapp bridge. A second act was therefore obtained in the sixth year of queen Anne, and work was done to allow barges of fifteen tons to pass as far as North Town bridge. This act also gave power to

charge additional tolls. 2*s.* 8*d.* was fixed by the act for every ton of coals, and 1*s.* 6*d.* for every ton of goods.

The undertaking did not prove productive until the year 1717, when the debt on the river, including interest, amounted to £5,697, and on this sum dividends have since been made.

The following tolls have been received :

1718	. £379	4*s.*	5*d.*	increasing to
1789	. £668	3*s.*	4*d.*	
1820	. £2161	2*s.*	4*d.*	
1821	. £2368	19*s.*	8*d.*	

Showing the increasing navigation and benefits to Taunton and district. The town of Bridgwater must have also derived material advantage, more particularly in the coal trade.

After the Taunton and Bridgwater canal was completed, the river fell into disuse, and now the Great Western Railway Company have rights over both canal and river. A body of "Conservators of the Tone" still exist, who periodically pass up and down the canal to see that it continues to be navigable, and are said to have powers to restore the navigation of the river if the canal shall cease to be so. A few boats continue to pass up and down the river, and lockage charges are still made.

The Bridgwater and Taunton canal was established in 1825, and in 1866 it was purchased by the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company.

The Bristol and Exeter Railway Company was opened to Taunton in 1842.

Turnpike roads (now generally abolished) did much to improve the transit, more particularly from town to town. Taunton appears to be the first in the West of England that applied to parliament for a turnpike act. The bill was opposed by Humphrey Sydenham, M P. for Exeter, who asserted that the roads were in very good repair. It was supported by Thomas Prowse, Esq., who put the house in roars of laughter by undertaking to prove that the roads were in so bad a state, that it would be no more expense to make

them navigable than to make them fit for carriages. The act passed in 25 Geo. II, 1752.

There is much of historical interest connected with the *Somerset Marshes.* It was on the neighbouring Isle of Athelney (or Edelingsay) that king Alfred, the founder of the English monarchy, and of English literature, in A.D. 872, took refuge, and made it the base of his operations in resisting the encroachments of the Danes. These marshes then were a great tract of fen and morass, alder woods abounded, and they were the home of the deer and the wild boar, and were the hunting grounds of the landowners. They remained unreclaimed until king James I, turned his attention to them, but this was more particularly directed to those about Westonzoyland, Middlezoy, and Othery. In these parishes, according to Domesday, 4,627 acres out of 7,069 are not represented at all. A very land of moors and swamps. In 1816, a commission for draining and enclosing was formed, and about this time King Sedgmoor was divided and assigned to certain manors and lordships adjoining, and it was then the drainage of this moor was attempted, by a cut running through the midst of the marsh, joining the rivers Parret and Cary. In 1685 took place the memorable battle of Sedgmoor, and we know, from the description of that battle, that certain drains and rhines existed, but the drainage was not complete.

Macaulay, in his description, says, when referring to Monmouth as looking from the steeple of Bridgwater church, "beneath him lay a flat expanse, now rich with cornfields and apple trees, but then, as its name imports, for the most part a dreary morass." He also says in another place: "The soldiers sang and rioted on the moor amidst the corpses; for the farmers of the neighbourhood had made haste, as soon as the event of the fight was known, to send hogsheads of their best cider as peace offerings to the victors." It is to be somewhat doubted if cider was the common product of the swampy land of that day, as it has become with more perfect drainage.

Efforts have been continued to drain these marshes from that period to the present day. It was from very early times made one of the conditions in the leases of the dean and chapter, that among other service the tenant should "also do and perform their work towards digging and cleansing and scouring the said lord's rivers, according to the rate of the premises, and when and as often as need shall require." In relation to the custom of the reeve's feast, each tenant who was entitled to a feast on account of his holding, had a certain specified portion of "walling" on the river to perform. This in course of time became an irksome duty, and was neglected, and in many cases those who took possession of the river bank were allowed to remain in quiet possession. Hence time has given a title to the numerous freeholders on the river's bank from Curload to Burrow Bridge, and other places. The drainage commissioners have now accepted the charge of the river drainage and maintaining its banks.

Very few are now living who are able to supply personal recollections of these matters, but Mr. James Temlett, who was reeve in 1863, which was very nearly the last, says his qualification arose from his being the tenant of two cottages in the old orchard near the church gate, occupied by Smith and Milton, now demolished. This entitled him to one feast. He had some "walling" to do on the river. The particular piece allotted to this tenement was a little below New Bridge.

In the Stoke St. Gregory accounts will be found charges for doing the portion of the river and wall belonging to the church house,[1] which was held by the parish under a copy of the court roll.

Mr. Warry, in his pamphlet on the Somersetshire Drainage Act, says, in reference to these liabilities: "The earliest attempt of the landowners in this direction is evidenced by what is now known by the name of 'dole work.' The word 'dole' means a lot, and the principle adopted was that each owner of a tenement

1 See p. 257

within a certain area, should take the burden upon himself of cleansing a certain portion of the stream, which either supplied water to or took the drainage off his particular land. These 'doles' represented liabilities of unequal proportions, and probably that was caused by the fact that the owners of some tenements were much larger holders of sewable lands than others.[1] It would seem also that these liabilities were confined to natural streams."

Enclosure of Commons.—Among matters by which the interest of parishes is greatly affected, is the enclosure of common lands. The expediency of improving the productive powers of the land, in a great measure, led to their enclosure. Rights of property existed over these, what are called "common lands." In this neighbourhood, the tenants of the manor had a right of pasturage on the moors which was regulated by the customs of the manor. Questions relating to these rights were enquired into at the local courts.[2] Strangers had no right of pasturage and therefore were trespassers. Portions of waste land were sometimes enclosed, by consent of the parish in vestry assembled, and then compensation for the same was paid into the "Parish Stock." The enclosure of the moors, namely Hay Moor and Curry Moor, was accomplished by act of parliament passed 37 Geo. III. The enclosure commissioners commenced to act 1797, when land belonging to the three parishes of North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, and West Hatch, estimated at 2,000 acres, was enclosed. It is stated on the award that "John Slade, Esq., was, or claimed to be, entitled to rights of common over the said moors in respect of his capital messuage called Athelney Farm, and his lands called Clies Meadow, and his tenement called Gale's Meadow, both formerly Walker's." This claim appears to have had its origin in certain grants of land and pasturage made by the dean and chapter to the

1. ? Or rather holders of more old tenements, consequently a larger amount of right of pasturage.

2. See "Customs of Manor," Appendix B.

abbot of Athelney, several references to which will be found in *Wells MSS.*

The act for the enclosure of West Sedgmoor passed 56 Geo. III (1816), when 3,000 acres were dealt with, and which were apportioned to the parishes of North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, Curry Rivel, Fivehead. Drayton, Swell, Curry Mallett, Beer Crowcombe, Hatch Beauchamp, Broadway, and West Hatch, all of which parishes had rights of common over this moor. The northern side was appropriated to North Curry, Stoke. St. Gregory, and West Hatch, and contains 1,330 acres; and the southern apportioned to the other parishes, 1,430 acres. The award sets forth that "it was intended to be divided and enclosed for a limited number of cattle only, in respect of certain ancient enclosed tenements called *Newnham* or *Stinted-hold Coats*, and "such portions as in our judgment shall be a full compensation for their said respective rights of common" . . . . "in respect of their Old Auster or ancient tenements."

The names given to these old tenements, "Newnham," or "Stinted-hold Coats," are peculiar, and appear to have the same meaning. The termination "ham" is the old Saxon for a home or enclosure, or home close or tenement. This appears to be a new enclosure as distinct from the "Old Auster" (hearth or house), and was called a Stinted-hold-Coat (or cottage holding). It was "stinted" or limited to a certain number of cattle, whereas the Old Auster tenement was (sans number) without limit.[1] The whole of the moors originally were in undivided common, in which all holders of the above tenements were entitled to their share. As indicating the increased value of these lands by drainage, etc.: John Billingsley, writing in 1795, stated the extreme value of lands in their undrained and unenclosed condition at 10*s.* per acre; and he estimated their improved value at 35*s.* per acre. The cost of enclosing the low lands did not much exceed £3 per acre, and portions were sold to defray the expenses.

1. See "Customs of Manor," Appendix B.

Section IV.

Book No. I.—Churchwardens' Account and Rate Book from 1666[1] to 1724.

THIS is a bulky book, about two-and-a-half inches thick, fifteen inches long, and six inches wide, strongly bound in leather; the paper is of a tough and good kind. The rates are written at one end and the accounts at the other. Much of it is very beautifully and closely written in old characters, and well preserved, and with good and clear ink, but some is very indistinct and very badly written, and difficult to decipher. The rates are made out under the headings of the four different tythings, viz., North Curry, Knapp, Lillesdon, and Wrantage. They appear to have been made out and all the accounts kept by some "writer," and there is always a charge in each account "For making y^e^ rate and keeping y^e^ account." The churchwardens were probably unable to make out their own accounts, as there is evidence that some of them could write only very indifferently, and to have signed by a mark. In the accounts the bells appear to have played a very important part, and each tells of heavy expenses connected with these, both as to constant repairs to wheels, ropes, brasses, etc., and for ringing on special days, and they tell a history of passing events, of rejoicings, royal birthdays, coronation days, and like occasions. Many important entries will be found which will show the historical events of the period. The bells were rung

1. 1665 was the year of the Great Plague, and 1666 that of the Great Fire of London.

when Monmouth was taken, when Namur, a great fortress in the Netherlands, was taken, on the receipt of the news of the great naval victory of La Hogue; when the seven bishops, including the bishop of Bath and Wells, were released from the tower. We note the rejoicings on the birth of a Prince of Wales, the so-called Pretender, said to be the surreptitious son of James II, and on the occasion of many other historical events. We have many entries which tell of days of fast and humiliation, as well as days of public thanksgiving. A good insight is also given to the customs of the period, the rates of wages, the means of conveying goods in and out of the parish before roads were made, and the importance of the river Tone. We find references made to the leading families of the neighbourhood, and may trace many interesting points of family history.

I purpose giving such extracts as may be interesting, and which appear to illustrate the parochial management and customs of the period.

The heading of the first rate is:

Ano 1666.

A Rate made the first day of July in the 18th Yeare of his Ma[ies] Reigne and in the Yeare of o[r] Lord God 1666 by John Nurton Churchwarding of the Parish of North Curry for the same Yeare for the payment of the Hospitals maimed souldieres repareing of Bridges and other disbursements of the s[d] Churchwarding.

The rate is beautifully and clearly written in old characters, and amounts to:

North Curry Tythinge	£5	14	4
Knap Tything	1	11	9
Lillisdon Tythinge	1	17	10
Wrantage Tythinge	1	12	0
	£10	16	0

[at the end] Oct. 1, 1666

Confirmed by us. Sig. Edw. Courte
John Turberville

[and another name illegible—probably Justices]

No guide is given as to the mode of assessment.

There are 122 names under North Curry Tything
37 „ Knapp „
42 „ Lillesdon „
47 „ Wrantage „

The amounts are small, varying from 1*d.* to £1.

Most of the names on the rate are those familiar to us at the present day, viz., Every, Ceely, Bowey, Dummet, Rowsell, Trapnell, Maurice, Staple, Foster, Knight, Webber, Balch, Dare, Meade, Tuttiett, Howse, White, Bridge, Guddridge, Smith, Andrews, Lea, Hearne, Palmer, Lokier, Verrier, Hembrow, Sir Wm. Portman, Hill, Cote, Stacey, Derham, Belringer, Curry, Edwards, Dinham.

Edward Courte, Esq. and Mr. Thomas Courte, Lillesdon, John Pine, Esq., Wrantage. These latter and Sir Wm. Portman are the only ones having any title.

The year named at the head of this rate was actually the sixth year of the reign of king Charles II, as he was crowned on the 25 April, 1661, having entered London and been restored May 29, 1660. The loyal people of North Curry appear to have computed it from the date of the execution of his father, Charles I, on 30 January, 1649, and so taking no account of the commonwealth. During the commonwealth he was crowned king in Scotland, 1650-1651, but the battle of Worcester made him an exile in France, Germany, and Holland, till his restoration. That date, the 29 May, was then ordered by the king to be "a day of thanksgiving in all succeeding ages," and we shall see it observed in this parish by the ringing of the bells, for which a charge is made, until recent times, in the churchwardens' accounts.

Items for repair of bridges are very frequent, more particularly in reference to Knapp bridge, and sometimes Stanmoor bridge. Entries for the repair of Stanmoor bridge will be found in both West Hatch and Stoke St. Gregory accounts, and in the latter, ten contributory parishes are named, and a lawsuit carried on against some of them for non-payment of their shares.

At the other end of the book are the accounts. Page 1 is here copied in full.

Ano 1666. The account of John Nurton Churchwarding [the only instance of one only] for the parish of North Curry for the year 1666.

For Bread and wine at two several times .	00	10	00
For three Hospitals to Conble Carr and Conble House	02	17	07-2
To Thomas Courte Conble for two Hospitals	01	18	00

The term "hospital" was probably meant as a place not for patients but for aged paupers, and may have some reference to the act of Eliz., 1572: "All inhabitants of towns and country districts assessed by the mayor or justices. The impotent poor to be settled in fitting habitations. Overseers appointed to superintend their labour."

In 1597 an act orders that "any person who chooses may establish hospitals, abiding places, or houses of correction, as well for the sustentation and relief of the maimed, poor, needy, or impotent people, as to set the poor to work, and from time to time place therein such head and members and number of poor as to him shall seem convenient." An act of 1624 was entitled, "An act for the erecting of hospitals and workhouses."

It appears to have been a county charge. It is very improbable that it referred to any of the following: "The hospital of St. John Baptist, by which the poor and sick of the city of Bath had the benefit of the hot waters, was founded by bishop Reginald in 1180, and endowed with lands and tenements in Bath and its neighbourhood, and with a tithe of hay from his demesne lands." Eyton, *Wells Cathedral*, p. 52. The same author says, p. 137, "Bishop Jocelin in 1221 founded a hospital at Wells, and dedicated it to St. John the Baptist, was intended for poor wayfarers, but with special intent at first for the 'cruce signati,' those who had taken upon themselves the cross or had returned from the crusades." Also p. 211, "In 1226, foundation of Alba Aula (Whitehall), Ilchester, by William Dacus, as a hospital for wayfarers 'pauperes debiles perige profiscentes.'" It could have had no reference to the great hospitals for the relief of disabled soldiers or sailors, such as Greenwich or Chelsea,

as Greenwich was given up as a palace, and made a retreat for disabled seamen in 1692, and was made a hospital in memory of queen Mary in 1694; and Macaulay says that "Chelsea hospital was building in 1685, and the cost was defrayed partly by a deduction from the pay of the troops and partly by private subscriptions."

To Mr. Thomas Courte for a new Church Book	00	10	00
To Ralfe Francies for Standmore Bridge . .	01	06	08
To Seamen and other Taullers	00	05	00

Entries of this kind occur in every rate as travellers, seamen, or soldiers, and very frequently the entry is, "having lawful passes." This amounts to a large sum in some years, and at length became so expensive that a resolution is made that "no more money shall be given to Travellers." These were the modern tramps.[1]

The Lord's rent	00	01	07
For Washing the linen	00	00	06
For ingrossing the rate and acconnt . . .	00	05	00
For a warrant to straine (distrain) . . .	00	01	00
To Robert Cairry for mending of Knapp Bridge	00	05	00

Considerable outlay is made on Knapp bridge. This seems to have been the principal point on the river for water carriage, and many entries will be found relating to this bridge. The importance of this can be readily understood from its being the most easily accessible spot on the river before the roads were made.

To Mr. Bower for mending of the Church Hatch going to his House	00	05	00
Sum is . .	08	17	07

Sum totall of the Rate is 10 16 04.

Clamb (claim) to bee allowed.

From Robt. Hill pr parson and the two farms hee rente	01	13	01
Hen: Owen Clarke	00	01	00
Widd: Cooper	00	00	02

1. See Vagrancy, p. 313

Walters Cote	00	00	02
Bartholemew Andras	00	00	02
William Waterman	00	00	02
Francis Mead	00	00	03
Sum is . .	01	15	00
Sum of disburstments and allowances . .	10	13	05
Due to ye parish . .	00	03	09

Out of every rate there will be found allowances claimed, principally it would appear to be in the case of poor persons who were perhaps unable to pay, but the vicar ("Hen. Owen, Clarke,") is always exempt, and also the occupier of the parsonage farm. These allowances are in some years very considerable, they were probably years of agricultural distress.

On page 1, end of book, is an entry relating to interest money, sometimes called "Bond Money," or "Stock Money," and shows a long list with the following heading.

Stock Money.[1]

The names of those that had the money of the Poor Stocke, and those that are bound for it, and by whom it was so put out, and at what time.

John Balch hath	01	15	10
Bonnd for Barnard Collins and Robert Brownsford, due to be paid the 25th March, 1657. John Payne was bound.			
Arth: Masters als Weaver hath	05	00	00
Bound to Edward House and William Tuttiett, due to be payd 29 Septr. 1659. John Derham bound,			
Thomasin Blunt hath, etc.	02	02	04
[Other names follow, making a total of] . .	76	10	09

On page 1, beginning, is

Interest Money is	04	09	07
Laid out for 18 yards and Halfe of Wool Cloath	02	06	03
To Tho: Jent a cote.			
To Nich: Same a cote.			
John Longe a cote.			
To Tho. Cadbury a pair of breeges.			
Wid. Vivian a wastcote.			

1. See p. 313.

Wid. Hoyle a wastcote.
Elizabeth Nurton a wastcote.
Joane Baller a wastcote.
Laid out for Lin. cloath 01 13 04
Will Baller a shirte.
Mary Rogers a smoke.
Amy Hembrow a smoke.
Hembrow ye sogger's wife a smoke,

The rest illegible and corner torn away.

In the last account in the book is an entry, "Expended at Taunton about the Old Bonds lost." The interest of this stock money is always distributed in articles of clothing, sometimes made up, and at others in woollen cloth, dowles, serge, or linen. This agrees with Macaulay's description of England about that date, he says, "Among the commodities for which the labourer had to pay higher than his posterity now pay were sugar, salt, coals, candles, soap, shoes, stockings, and generally *all articles of clothing and all articles of bedding.* It may be added that the old coats and blankets would have been not only more costly but less serviceable than the modern fabrics." Hence the judiciousness of giving clothing.

Page 5. The account of Robert Shepperd and Henry Exon Churchwardens for the yeares 1667, 1668, and 1669.

A three years' account. Much repair is now done to the church in lead work, masonry, and to the bells. I give only particular items.

Payd forteen Hospitalls	14	10	3
Layd out about the Bell	4	6	4
Payd Brayly for leed worke 2d. new and a ob (?) exchange	28	3	0
Payd John Bowe	7	17	4
Payd the glasiear	11	0	0
Payd for belroops	1	14	2
Payd Andrew Olford ye mason . . .	0	18	10
for carrige for Leede to Taunton . . .	0	10	0
Payd for Lime	4	16	7
Payd for rooting of trees	0	5	6
Payd sawinge of timber and makeing of a sawpitt	0	7	10
Payd for bindinge ye Church Bible . .	0	14	0
Payd to the Bell carpenter	0	12	6
Payd for timber for ye bell stocke . .	0	1	8
Payd for carring of a beame . . .	0	0	8

Payd for wyer for ye Clocke	0	1	4
Payd for wood for ye playsteres	0	4	0
Payd for oker and carrige	0	8	6
Payd to the Crouneofice and about the Bridge	3	4	2
Payd for payles, tubbes, and hooping	0	8	2
Payd for carring casting and seting in of the brasses of ye bell	0	19	6
Payd to Travelers	0	14	10
Payd for heare and carrige	1	17	3
(Page 7) Payd for planks and for carridg and for Just for Knapp bridg	1	3	6
Payd for ringing the fift of November, 1668	0	7	10

This is always a ringing day; the gunpowder plot, 1605.

Payd ye ringers ye King's bearth day	0	2	0
Layd out for bread and wine	2	8	6
Layd out for expenses for jurneyes to Wells, visittacons and other expences	3	15	0
Payd for ye rent of the Parish House for 4 yeares	0	6	4
Payd to Michael Rooke for worke about Knapp bridg	0	4	8
For making of our own rats and drawing up of our accoumpts	0	6	0
Allowances	2	4	9
The receipts are	126	10	5
The disburstments are	126	5	3
remaine in our hands	000	05	02

Frequent mention is made of the Parish House or Church House. Lord's rent is paid for it, and an entry is made further on of a new copy being taken from the authorities at Wells, and a good deal is spent on its repair. This house appears to have been near the site of the present school.[1]

(Page 6). Receipts of Interest and other money for ye Poore.

Interest money in 1667	4	9	7
Conviction money of Will: Mudge	0	17	0
Interest money in 1668	4	9	7
For breaking the ground for Mr. Thomas Court's child	0	6	8
For breaking of the ground for Mr. Bower's wife	0	6	8

1. See p. 322

More rec. of Mr. Thomas Courte for a seate .	0	6	8
Interest money for ye Half yeare in 1669 .	2	4	11½
	12	1	1½

This means a fee for breaking the ground for burial in the church, and it will be seen that it, as well as the next entry for the sale of a seat, is added to the interest money for charity. Much more will be said later on about the sale of seats.

The interest money is "disbursted" in woollin cloth, making of the clothes, canves and buttens, dowles, threed, etc.

(Page 9). The accompts of Giles and Michael Potter for the yeare 1671.

Payed Hospitell money	3	17	6
for mending ye Peyepher Booke . . .	0	15	0
for journeye ye visitacion and taking oe oith .	0	3	6
To ye Beddman[1]	0	3	0

The custom of ringing the curfew bell was still observed, and is usually in some form entered into the accounts; as above very frequently, and "for ringing the curfe" in others.

Payd to Poore Travelling people . . .	1	0	0
for writting oe Rates and for fitting the accompte	0	5	0
	10	1	0

Among the allowances appear:

Henry Owen, Clerk, 6d.
Lady Stradlinge, 6d.

(Page 10). For interest money . . .	4	9	7
Of Charity Bower, widow, for breaking ye ground in ye Church	0	6	8
	4	16	3

Those Parishioners which had the woole clothe:
Jo: Handole 1 Cots cloth.
Lau: Handole 1 Cots cloth.
James Rowsell's boye a paire breeches.
Robt Dyman boye a dubblett.
Lininge, etc., etc.

1. See p. 95.

P. 43, end. The heading of the next rate is noticeable. The writing changes, and both this and the account are beautiful specimens of handwriting.

Two Rates made one for y^e^ Church containing one monethes Rate over y^e^ parish, the other for Hospitalls and maimed souldiers containing half a monethes Rate over the Parish by Thomas Owen and Thomas Keezar, churchwardens for the yeare ending at Easter, 1674.

The "monuth" or "moneth" appears to mean a month, and the monthly charge or rate one penny per acre; a monthly rate is therefore a penny rate.

The rate is divided into two columns, one containing "one moneth for the church," the other containing "half a moneth for the hospitalls and maimed soldiers."

I give some of the chief names in each tything and the amounts assessed.

North Curry Tything.

	s	*d*	*f*	*s*	*d*	*f*
Mrs. Frances Bull . .	01	02	0	00	07	0
Doct^r^ Pearce . . .	01	03	0	00	07	2
David Rossiter p^r^ Ham Mills .	02	06	0	01	03	0
Henry Collins . . .	02	00	0	01	00	0
Will: Rowsell Esq Lond .	05	04	0	02	08	0
Greg: Powell . . .	03	01	0	01	06	2
Rob^t^ Hill Ju: the Farme .	13	01	0	06	06	2
Rob^t^ Hill Ju: p. Pars: . .	00	00	0	10	00	0
Mr. Henry Owen. Clar . .	00	00	0	00	06	0
	4	14	4	2	17	8	1

It will be seen that Rob^t^ Hill, J^r^ was exempt from the church rate for the parsonage farm, as also was the vicar, but each paid for the hospital rate.

Knapp Tything.

	s	*d*	*f*	*s*	*d*	*f*
Gregory & Jo Derham . .	02	02	0	01	01	0
Henry Exon . . .	02	00	0	01	00	0
Andrew Wadham . .	02	02	0	01	01	0
Robert Brownsford . .	03	03	0	01	07	2
Doctor Pearce . . .	00	05	0	00	02	0
Mr. Young . . .	01	02	0	00	07	0
	£1	11	5	0	15	8	2

Lillesdon Tything.

Edward Courte Esq	.	.	08	04	0	04	02	0
Mr. Thomas Courte	.	.	01	08	0	00	10	0
John Hamond	.	.	01	07	0	00	09	2
Thomas Keezar	.	.	01	06	0	00	09	0
		£1	17	11	2	18	11	3

Wrantage Tything.

Robt Handole pr Jo Pine Esq	.	02	06	0	01	03	0
Mr. Thomas Windham	.	.	00	04	0	00	02	0
Mr. Thomas Greenwood	.	.	01	07	0	00	09	2
Michael Potter	.	.	02	06	0	01	03	0
		1	12	07	2	16	03	3
Total	£9	16	4	2	£5	8	8	1

Page 11. (The account is also divided into two parts)

For the Church

Dissburstments								
At the visitation	.	.	.	.	00	03	06
for a bellrope and clockrope	.	.	.	00	08	06
At precescion (beating bounds)	.	.	00	15	06
To the Ringers the severall Ringing days	.	01	02	06
To the Plumer & wood	.	.	.	.	04	09	00
for the box in the chest	.	.	.	.	00	15	03
To the Bishops Register for ingrossing in the Rolls at Wells the Tryall with West Hatch about the churchyard walls nere pound	.	.	.	.	.	00	05	00

The pound was then in a different position from the present one (see old churchyard plan).

For bringing Fox, Tuttiett, Foster and Potter former Churchwardens to account	.	00	10	00
		12	08	11
(Page 13). Interest on Stock Money received		04	07	02

The names of those ye had the Cloth :
Lau Nash 1 yde 3 qhrs to make him a peare of breeches.
Handoles boy a cote 2 yds.
George Perry breeches 2 yds. and Halfe.
Deans a cote 2 yds. 3 qters.
In all 18 yds. and Halfe of wool cloth.

Richard Gents wife a change 3 yds. and a qhr.
Wid Gudridge a change 4 yds.
In all 24 yds. one qhr. linnen Cloth.

(Page 51, end). A Rate made . . . for Two moneths and a Halfe for the Church, Hospitall, and maimed souldiers and other disburstm^ts^ for year ending Easter 1675.

(Page 15). The account of Arthur Weaver and John Smith Ch: Ws. . . . 1675.

Account for the Hospitall & maimed souldiers

Desburstments to Con^ble^ for Hosp: & maim souldiers	03	17	09
To Traulers with passes . . .	00	19	6
	04	19	9
Received for the Parish Common . .	00	10	00
rec for Stones for y^e^ use of the Church from Lillesdon Court Chaple . . .	00	06	00

This refers to an old chapel at Lillesdon Court, which was dedicated to St. Martin. There was also a chantry, and masses were established to pray for the lord and lady of Lillesdon. See p. 69.

(with sums from different tithings).

Sum is . .	25	17	10
Disburstments.			
Laid out for five hospitalls and maimed souldiers	04	18	0
Laid out by Jo: Smyth for carring of Stones and sand about the Casway in the Churchyeard	02	13	3
Paid to stone leasers (gatherers) and to the Sames and to William Belringer for wages	02	05	06

The following is from the old register book: "Mem^o^ That the Caseways in y^e^ Church Yard from y^e^ Church Hatch to y^e^ Vicaridg house were made in the year 1674. Arthur Weaver and John Smith Ch: Ws."

Laid out at the presession . . .	00	03	04
laid out for makeing a wheele for the lettell Bell	00	05	9
laid out upon the King's ringing day the 29th day of May	00	03	6
paid for Two bell rops and a clocke rop .	00	06	0
paid to the ringers the 5th Novem: in bread and Beere	00	06	0

paid for bread and wine and washing the lyning against Easter	00	09	0
more laid out by Arthur Weaver at a vissitation for drawing the presentment and oath .	00	04	0
for a new Bell wheele	00	05	6
gave to workmen in beere at several times .	00	02	6
for carring of stones and sand for the casway in the churchyard	02	14	0
paid to the Sames for wages . . .	03	07	9
laid out in meate and drink ye 5 Novem .	00	06	9
paid to William Smith and Jo: Pocock for 8 lode of stones	00	08	0
	21	15	6

Many entries in this account are made twice, so it is probable, as occurs later on, that each churchwarden paid half.

It will be seen that the churchwardens were very generous in the matter of refreshments, whether on ringing days or processions, or for work done, and it is noteworthy that beer is always the drink given. No mention of cider is made all through the accounts. It is probable that in those days orchards in this neighbourhood were not common. Macaulay says: "Beer was undoubtedly much cheaper in that age than at present. Meat was also cheaper, but still so dear that hundreds of thousands of families scarcely knew the taste of it," and that "the average price of wheat per quarter during the last twelve years of Charles the second was 50*s*. Bread, therefore, such as is now given to the inmates of a workhouse, was then seldom seen on the trencher of a yeoman or of a shopkeeper. The great majority of the nation lived on rye, barley, and oats." "The quantity of beer consumed in those days was enormous; for beer then was to the middle and lower classes, not only all that beer is now, but all that wine, tea, and ardent spirits are now."

In the first year of James I (1603), parliament enacted that no innkeeper, victualler, or alehouse keeper should sell less than a full quart of best ale or beer, or two quarts of small for one penny, under a penalty of 20*s*. It appears then that in the reign of

king James the subject paid 4*d.* for a gallon of strong beer which now costs 1*s.*

(Page 63, end). A monethly Rate made 1675 . . . . . for collecting a foure moneths rate, etc.

(Page 21). The account of Robert Hill, Jnr and John Derham for ye year ending Easter, 1676.

Receipts from Tithings, etc. . . .	43	16	07
Disburstments.			
for foure Hospitalls	03	18	04
To Will: Pich for his work and his men's about ye Church and for 2 new Bell Wheales .	05	15	06
To Robert Bobbett for an Oake . . .	01	05	00
To Robt Currying ye Oake . . .	00	06	00
To William Ware for an Elme . . .	00	06	00
for carrying ye elme	00	02	00
To John Northam for 4 Bell roaps . .	00	16	00
To William Bellringer for mending ye great bell wheale and one plate of iron . .	00	01	06
To ringers ye several ringing days . .	02	00	08
To Emanuel Applebee for Iron work for ye church	03	05	08
for leather for ye Bells	00	02	10
To Edward Rowsell for setting ye leather .	00	00	06
To Simon Northam for 2 Bell roaps . .	00	10	00
To ye Smith for nailes and Gemmies for ye Tower	00	10	00
To ye Beddman for cleaning ye Church and Leeds	00	10	00
To ye Beddman for ringing of Curfey . .	00	10	00

Bells, bell ropes, and clock are expensive items. It shows there must have been very frequent use of the bells. As locomotion was so difficult on account of want of roads, it might have been a means of showing neighbouring parishes that they were rejoicing,—or otherwise. This account shows a good deal of repairs to the tower, and the next few entries give a good idea of the rate of wages paid at the time.

To Edward Rowsell for 3 days and halfs work	00	03	06
To Mr. Brayly for Lead work 2 pence new and ob exchange	13	03	01
for 27 pounds and 3 quters of Soder . .	01	07	09
To Mr. Brayly for 4 days worke . . .	00	10	00
To Mr. Brayly's man for 5 days worke . .	00	10	00
To Mr. Brayly's son for 2 days worke . .	00	03	00
for helping up ye lead to ye Tower . .	00	01	00
To Mr. Powell for carrying ye Lead to Taunton	00	11	02

To Anthony Culverwell for bringing ye Lead from Taunton	00	08	00
Sum totall . .	39	10	06

It will be seen that Edward Rowsell, probably a labourer, has 1*s.* a day. Mr. Brayly, the plumber, has 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. Mr. Brayly's man has 2*s.* a day. Mr. Brayly's son, perhaps an apprentice, has 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. This is somewhat better than Macaulay's statement, who says: "A labourer was by no means in the lowest state who received for a day's work fourpence with food and eightpence without food. About the beginning of 1685, the justices of Warwickshire, in exercise of a power entrusted to them by an act of Elizabeth, fixed at their quarter sessions a scale of wages for the county, and notified that every employer who gave more than the authorised sum, and every working man who received more, was liable to punishment. The wages of the common agricultural labourer, from March to September, was fixed at 4*s.* a week, without food; and from September to March at 3*s.* 6*d.* But in that time, as in ours, the earnings of the peasant were different in different parts of the kingdom; Warwickshire was probably about the average. In the same year, a gentleman of Devonshire, named Richard Dunning, published a small tract describing the poor of that county. That he understood his subject well it is impossible to doubt, for a few months later was by the magistrates assembled at Exeter in quarter sessions strongly recommended. According to him the wages of the Devonshire peasant were, without food, about 5*s.* a week. In Bury St. Edmunds, he had 5*s.* a week in winter and 6*s.* in summer. In 1661, in Chelmsford, the justices fixed the wages at 6*s.* in winter and 7*s.* in summer. This seems to have been the highest in the kingdom, and in the year in which the order was made the necessaries of life were immoderately dear. Wheat was 70*s.* a quarter: a famine price.

"The bricklayer's and mason's wages were 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; carpenter, 2*s.* 6*d.*; plumber, 3*s.* It seems clear,

therefore, that the wages of labour were not more than one half of what they are now, and there were few articles important to the working man of which the price was not more than half of what it is now."

(Page 23). The following entry of church plate, etc.:

One Silver Bole and Challece, 2 Flaygan, and one q[t] Peueter, a Table Cloath and Napkin and Cayse.

Stock Money.

Thomas Earlam and Robt. Nurton bond of .	11	06	00
Henry Stevens bond of	4	4	8
and 11 more amounting to . . .	78	11	10

Thse bonds, etc., were delivered to the new church-wardens and signed by them.

T. Court
Thomas Brayly } Churchwardens.

(And other names follow.)

(Page 71, end). A Rate made . . . 1676 . . . being 3 monethes and halfe (viz.) 3 monethes for y[e] Church, halfe a moneth for Hosp: and Mai: Sold.

sum total . .	33	10	10

(Page 25). The account of Thomas Courte for year ending Easter 1676-7.

Disburstm[ts]

for a comon Prayer Booke . . .	00	16	00
for oken planks, bords, and other oken timber and carrage	04	14	00
for elmeing planks and other elme . .	01	08	00
To the sawers	00	14	06
for 4 paire of gemmys	00	06	00
mending y[e] belclipper and Badripe . .	01	18	00
for the new casting y[e] brasses . . .	01	01	06
for a black cloath	01	18	06
for lime, heare, glow (glue), and the mason's wages	00	19	06
for ringing Curfie	00	10	00
for cleaneing the leads, washing the linnen and other things	00	02	06
To ye Plumer and for woad for irin and the glasier	02	18	06
In beare when the tree was taken downe from y[e] church	00	04	00
	29	19	09

The hospital account is given separately.

Hospitall and maimed souldiers . . .	02	04	08
To Trauellers with passes . . .	02	09	10
payd to severall breefe	00	13	06
	05	18	00

Extract from the old register book:

"Mem^{o} That the communion table was railed in and seated on both sides in the year 1676. Thomas Courte Gent being Church Warden."

Receipts of the Stock money.			
The Interest	04	04	10
Disbursed.			
To William Calbirth as by his bill . .	03	13	03
for buttons thrid and making y^{e} Cloathes .	00	13	10
for a shirt for Rob^{t} Boler . . .	00	03	00
	04	10	01

This account was made and published in the church.

(Page 79, end). Two Rates made . . . the one for the Church containing oue moneth and half to y^{e} Poor, the other for Hospitall and maimed souldiers containing half a moneth rate.

(Page 27). The account of Thomas Rowsell and John Wadham Churchwardens for the year ending at Easter, being 31 March, 1678.

Received for Church Comon . . .	00	10	00
Of y^{e} Parish	19	15	1
	20	05	01
Disbursments.			
for 4 Hospitalls	02	18	08
for passengers with passes . . .	00	18	04
for mending Knapp bridge . . .	00	18	00
pd for ye amersm^{te} (?)	02	01	08
for a new serplus	02	19	00
engrossing ye Register	00	02	06
	15	10	07

The usual Interest and Disbursments of Stock Money.

(Page 87, end). Two Rates made . . . 1678 . . . The one for repairing of ye Church, mending of Knapp Bridge, and other disburstments, etc. Containing 4 moneths to ye Poore the other for ye Hospitall and maimed souldiers containing Halfe a moneth to ye Poore.

This rate is contained in two columns.

		Church			*Hospitall*		
		s.	*d.*	*f.*	*s.*	*d.*	*f.*
Mrs. Boughey or tent .		07	04	00	00	11	00
Mr. Wm. Rowsell, London .	01	01	00	00	02	07	02
Robt Hill Jr for ye Farme .	02	12	04	00	06	06	02
ye same for ye Parsonage .	00	00	00	00	10	00	00
Mr. Henry Owen, Clarke .		00	00	00	00	06	00

This rate is most beautifully and clearly engrossed. The parsonage, occupied by Mr. Robert Hill, junr., a large farmer, pays no rate to the church; and the vicar, Mr. Henry Owen, is also exempt, but both pay to the hospitall. It is signed:

Henry Owen, Vic. ibid.
Jo: Fox
Thomas Owen
Henry Foster
William Mudge
The rates above written made ye 4 of March 1678, are (as much as in me lieth and as ye laws of ye Realm permitt) allowed and approved by me
Grindall Sheafe R.W.
and the D. and Chaptrs Officiall.

(Page 29). The account of William Verrier and Edward Derham, Anno 1678.

Receipts.

For ye Parish house comon . . .	00	10	00
Conviction money	00	05	00
(and From the various Tithings) total .	42	11	04

Disburstments.

To John Northam for 4 Bell ropes and one clocke rope	01	02	00
for 4 Pounds and Halfe of Oyle . . .	00	03	00
for 2 Brasses for ye Bells . . .	00	15	06
for 4 Books for ye severall Fast days . .	00	02	00

This was after the discovery of the pretended popish plot, in which the notorious Titus Oates was concerned. In an old history book I find, "Soon after this, upon several addresses from the two houses of Parliament, a Proclamation was published for a general Fast throughout the whole Kingdom to be observed

on the 13th November, for imploring the mercy of Almighty God upon his Majesty's Royal person, and in him upon all his subjects; and that God will bring to light more and more all secret machinations against his Majesty and the whole Kingdom. Which day of Humiliation was accordingly observed throughout all England, and a form of Prayer composed for that purpose."

This was followed by several other proclamations for discovery of popish recusants; the first of the 30th October, commanding all such to depart from the cities of London and Westminster, and all other places within ten miles of the same; was seconded by an order of council on 2nd November, wherein his majesty promised a reward of £20 to those who should discover any officer or soldier of his majesty's guards, who had formerly taken the oaths of "allegience," "supremicie," and the test, had since been perverted or should hereafter be perverted to the Romish religion.

for Killing of 3 Foxes and crying of them[1] . 00 05 00

This is the first appearance of any payment being made for vermin, and foxes in particular do not appear to be very plentiful here, but speaking of England generally at this period, Macaulay says: "There was not seldom a great massacre of foxes, to which the peasantry thronged with all the dogs which could be mustered; traps were set, nets were spread, no quarter was given, and to shoot a female with cub was considered as a feat which merited the warmest gratitude of the neighbourhood."

To Richard Brayly for Lead work, Two pence new and an Halfe penny exchange . . 09 12 00
for 36 pounds one quarter of Soder . . 01 16 03
for 6 Dayes worke for he and his man . . 01 04 00
for Carrying and recarrying of ye Lead to Taunton 01 00 06
for 3 Seemes of Wood for ye Plumers and one to intend them 00 05 08
for nailes for ye Plumers . . . 00 00 02
To Peter Gudridge and John Willmont for carrying and weighing of ye Lead and helping it and ye Ladder up in Tower . 00 02 06

1. See Vermin, p. 310.

for weighing of Lead at 2 severall times more and fetching down of ye Ladder againe .	00	02	06
for expences at Wells 3 severall times and for confirming of ye Booke . . .	00	13	00
for tymber, iron, and workemans wages about Knapp Bridge	03	01	06
To Mr. Thomas Owen for tymber about ye New Bell cages	01	15	06
To William Pich for his worke and his 2 mens worke about ye Cage and Tower and new Wheale	03	16	00
for ye 2 Prosses (processes) for Handoll and Nurton		?	
for ingrossing ye Register . . .	00	02	06
for severall conviction warrants about selling without Lysence	00	04	06
	36	05	09

The usual "Disburstments for Hospitall" follow, and distribution of Stock Money.

This account shows considerable repairs to the tower, and much lead work; also repairs to the bell cages, which probably are the same as exist to the present day, and which the vicar, the Rev. Prebendary Buller, has had strengthened and supported, by new iron girders being placed below the supporting beams, the ends having decayed. He has also had the cage strongly bolted together, and strong iron corner pieces placed.

(Page 97, end). A Rate made . . . 1679 . . . for the Hospitall money, containing halfe a moneth to ye poore.

(Page 33). (This is only for Hospitall).
The account of Henry Foster and William Brounsford, Ano 1679.
Receipts.

Of the Old Churchwardens	6	12	8
for ye Parish House money		10	
For Hospitall money containing half a monuth to ye poore			
(from the various Tythings) Total . .	12	9	7

Disburstments.

for 4 Hospitalls	2	18	8
for Bookes att ye visetacion and ye presentment there made	00	05	00

To William Best for tymber to mende ye Church house oven and setting it up .	00	7	6
To Richard Rowsell for Read and bringe it downe	00	3	1
To John Combe for thaching and John Collins for tending of him and wateringe of ye Read	00	2	6
for lidiers and twigs	00	00	06
for sparrs to Wm. Hurston . . .	00	00	05
for oyle for ye bells and ye clocke . .	00	02	06
To Henry Hoyle for killing of a noter . .	00	02	00
for Killing of 5 Foxes	00	05	00
To ye Constab Powell for Bridges . .	00	19	06
total .	10	11	9

(Page 36). Waywardens chosen Dec. 27, 1680.

for North Curry Tything . .	Robt Hill Jr Thomas Owen
for Knapp Tything . .	Robt Shepperd John Derham
for Lillesdon Tything . .	John Hamond John Pocock Jr
for Wrantage Tything . .	Thomas Earlham William Blunt
for ye Borough of Newport .	The Port Reeve for ye time being.
Odes Wilmott Olive Hare	} Constables.
Robert Handole Senr Henry Nurton	} Churchwardens.

This is the first mention of waywardens being elected, and they appear to be elected for each tything down to the year 1863, when a new highway act was passed, and one wayward en was chosen for the whole parish to represent them on a highway board. This arrangement was continued until 1896, when the highway management was transferred to the district council.

With reference to the "Borough of Newport," and the "Port Reeve," a mace said to relate to the office still exists in the possession of the Foster family.[1]

(Page 105, end). Two Rates made. . . . 1680, one for the Church, the other for the Hospitall and maimed souldiers, both containing one whole rate.

1. See page 84.

(Page 36). The account of Robt Handole Sen. and Henry Nurton in the year 1680.

Various receipts from Tythings.			
Of Mr. Thomas Courte for a seate by ye Clarke	00	02	06
Of Will Davids wife for a seate . . .	00	01	00
Total .	12	05	04
Disbursmts			
to Cornelius ye Plumer	02	00	00
for ye books of articles, fast and ye Kings decl (?)	00	03	06
for making ye Wherlgog[1] . . .	00	06	00
paid towards County Bridges . . .	01	06	00
for mending Knapp Bridge . . .	01	00	00
	11	19	4

(Page 37). The account of Laurence Fox and John Nurton for ye yeare 1681.

Receipts	39	05	04
Disbursments.			
for Hospitall and maimed souldiers . .	03	03	08
To trauellers with passes	02	11	00
When we went to South Petherton to agree with Purdue for casting of ye 2nd Bell .	00	05	00
When the bell was taken downe and put up in money and beer	00	09	00
Expended when wee carryed the bell . .	02	16	06
for the carrying and bringing the bell the plow	03	00	00
expended for casting and adding of 139 pd at — (?) per pd.	14	00	00
for mending the bell wheeles and the Tower and in beere to the workmen . .	03	04	06
total .	38	13	06

This bell is taken to South Petherton; the Purdues are said to have had their foundry at Closworth.

(Page 39). The bonds in our custodye and now by us delivered up to ye new churchwardens are as followeth.

1. *Query:* The swing-gate; or a stile that is made of a post with four-arm frame placed laterally on the top, and revolving as passers went through; *i.e.* a turnstile.

Richard Pococke sen: of Gregory Stoke for which Tho: Courte, Gent, and John Stone are bound as by the bond . . .	15	00	00
and 11 others . . Total .	76	03	03
The Interest of which is	04	11	03

out of which pd for 76 yds of doulas for ye poor at 9½ per yd. 03 00 02
and for 11 yds and halfe of Kersey at 02s 06 per yd. 01 08 09
in the whole . . 04 08 11
(Then follows) "The Poor that had the Cloth."

(Page 41). The accounts of Amos Burd and William Smith, Ano 1682.

Receipts.

Of John Northem for ye Parish Plott by the pound[1]	00	1	00
(Of the various tythings) . total .	9	15	2

Disburstments.

for a new Beere and for mending of seates and a Cubbard	1	15	0
To Edward Rowsell for mending the Church Walls and washing ye Lineinge skowring ye plate and Clenisinge ye Leddes, for lime, oyle and leathar for ye bells . .	00	16	00
for 5 hedggoges heades	00	00	10
	9	5	5

This is the first entry for hedgehogs, but they are numerous further on. It must have been good sport for the youngsters at 2*d.* each. The spelling is interesting: Hedggoges, hedghoogs, hagehogs, hagogs, hadghogs, headhoges, hedgdogs, hedge Hoogs, hedgdodgs, dogs, hedgod, etc., showing ingenuity on the part of the writers.[2]

(Page 45). Receipts.
of Peter Watts deceased by his laste Will and Testament who gave the sum of Twenty shillings unto ye poor of ye Parish of North Curry and by his Executors payed.

1. See Plan of Pound, p. 102
2. See Vermin, p. 310.

The distribution of the money to 13 poor persons in Dowlais.

(Page 125, end). A Rate made . . . . 1683 . . . . 2 moneths to be collected for the repair of the Church and payment of Hospital money, att ye juste proportion of ye Poors rate.

(Page 45). The account of Henry Steevens and John Hurston for Ano 1683.

Receipts.

For ye comon of ye Parish Cottages . .	00	5	00
Francis Lestar for a seate in the quire for his own life	00	2	6
for ye topp of ye oke	00	6	8
From the rate . total .	20	17	0

Disburstments.

To John Cornelius for Glazing ye Church Windows	3	10	0
paid 4 tyems Hospitall money . . .	2	11	10
payed for killing of 7 Foxes . . .	00	15	00
To Mr. Hamond for a oake . . .	02	15	0
for —— (?) of ye oake and thurt cutting of him	00	09	0
for killing of a hedgod	00	00	2
	18	18	0

(Page 53). The account of Richard Rowsell and Richard Jeanes ano 1684.

Receipts.

For the Parish Comon	00	06	08
for ye old posses (posts) of Knape bridge .	00	06	08
(From various tythings &c.) . total .			

Disburstments.

for five bell roopes	01	02	06
for whiteinge ye Church and culleringe ye pillers and painten ye pullpitt . . .	04	00	00
for expenses at presecion Two days . .	00	12	00
A buriall Cloth	02	02	06
for caringe ye Planks to Knape bridge and Ireon and workmen wages . . .	00	16	00
Expensis for severall ringing days . .	04	00	00
for washen ye surplus	00	03	06
for ingrossing ye Register and payd two Mr. Paine	00	05	06
(No account made up).			

(Page 56).

	s.	d.
Sold to Emanuel Appelbee a seate in the fore seate next to the Clarks seat for . .	1	0
Another sold to Jo Trapnell in the same seat for	1	0
Another to myselfe John Saxon in the inermost seat next to the Clarke . . .	1	0

(Page 143, end). A Rate made . . . . 6 monuth to be collected at the just proportion of the Poor rate—1685.

(Page 57). The account of Symond Sharpe and John Saxon for the yeare 1685.

Receipts total .	57	16	8
Disburstments.			
for fower Horsespittals	2	12	0
To the Ringers 29th May . . .	1	18	6
To the Ringers 26 June for the takeing of Monnmeth		12	8
The 5th November to ye ringers . . .	1	10	6
the 6th of febeary to ye ringers . . .	1	7	6

The date here given for the taking of Monmouth does not agree with history, viz., 7 July. The next date, 6 February, that of king James II being proclaimed, is the correct one. Monmouth was proclaimed at Taunton on 20 June. The battle of Sedgmoor took place on 6 July ; his capture, 7 July. Charles II died on 6 February, 1685, and James II was proclaimed, and he was crowned on 23 April.

It will be seen that the churchwardens' accounts are not entered in chronological order.

It is noticeable that the bells were rung for the taking of Monmouth, considering the assertion that most of the common people of these parts flocked to his standard. In the record of the event it does not appear that any North Curry people are mentioned as being concerned. It is possible the restraining influences of the manor being held under the church of Wells had some effect, and encouraged the loyalty conspicuous on this and many other occasions.

for going a presesion and bread and beare to them that went	1	0	0
for fower bell roopes	00	16	0
for takeing 3 foxes	00	03	0

for whewing (?) the bell	0	11	6
for the sentances and flourishing the King's arms to Thos Fry	8	12	0

After the coronation of the king and the defeat of Monmouth and the events arising out of the rebellion, this was probably a burst of loyalty, and the royal arms formerly set up in churches were re-decorated at considerable cost.

for the Bridge	20	0	0
for setting it up	5	0	0
for drawing ye Timber to ye place . .	1	6	8
To will Best and William Bellringer for cutting the Tree	0	2	6
To Will Appelbee for Iron worke about the Bridge	2	5	0
To Morse of Ling Blackesmyth for Iron worke about ye Bridge	1	10	0
For a Tree to John Fox		(?)	
for drawing the Tree whome . . .	0	10	0
for new making the Clock . . .	2	10	0
Total .	60	14	0

These entries in reference to "the Bridge" are not clear; it was probably for Knapp bridge.

	£		
(Page 59). June 13, 1689. Then collected . for the relieving the French Predistants by Ralfe Thring and John Goodland Churchwardings.	2	19	11

This refers to the Huguenots or Protestants banished from France by Lewis XIV, and who took refuge in this country, and were in great distress. Macaulay says: "that for political motives (James being a Roman Catholic) he affected to pity these unhappy men whom persecution had driven from their country. He had caused it to be announced in every church in the kingdom a collection would be made under his sanction for their benefit. Fearing to offend the French king he was anxious to withdraw the proclamation, but the congregations were eager to subscribe, notwithstanding that the clergy were ordered not to presume to preach on the subject, but only to read the brief. £40,000 was collected over the country. The king was highly mortified at this, and

resolved that it should be of no use to those it was meant to benefit. He therefore gave orders that none should receive a crust of bread or a basket of coal who did not take the sacrament according to the Anglican ritual. Many exiles who had come full of gratitude and hope, heard their sentence and went broken-hearted away."

(Page 157, end). Rate made Anno: Dom 1686 . . . . 3 moneths and Halfe.

(Page 61). The account of Ralph Thring and John Goodland for the Yeare 1686.

Receipts &c. Total .	34	13	3
Disburstments.			
Planks for Knapp Bridg 74 foot . . .	0	18	6
for casting of the Brasses . . .	0	13	0
for four days worke about the Bells . .	0	10	0
for work about the Bells at a nother time .	0	3	6
paid more to Mr, William Sealy for seting up a new Lion and Two new Turkes (?) and other crosspeaces and for taking up the Lead and laying of it downe and soddering all the rest of the Church and plaistering where their was occation with heare and lyme and in expenses in making the Bargin and while they were about ye worke .	14	02	6
paid to John Northam for three Bell rops and a Clocke rop	00	17	6
Laid out in expences at Bridgwatter when wee did appeare before the Commiconers .	00	04	0
paid to William Appelbee for Spuks (spikes) for Knapp Bridg	00	16	0
more paid to William Applebee for righting the Church Gatt and Hach . . .	00	04	4
paid towards Tone Bridge . . .	00	08	8

This is the first mention of Tone bridge. Knapp bridge is elsewhere named in this account, therefore this probably means the bridge now called "new bridge."

Laid out at five ringing days . . .	03	13	06

Ringing days are increasing as are also the expenses to the bells.

gave in beere when the Lyon was put up .	00	01	0

This refers to the entry made before of "a new

Lion and Two new Turkes." It seems to have reference to the royal arms which during the commonwealth were ordered to be erased in all public places, and were now being restored; and the entry made in the last account of "flourishing the king's arms" has a similar reference.

The word "Turke" is peculiar. It may mean "Torc," which was a name used in olden days for a sign, now used by the ordnance department, called the broad arrow ⅄ and was a symbol of royalty. The same occurs in our churches, as symbolical of the Sun of Righteousness, and in our painted windows and altar cloths, and is one of the earliest known emblems of the Holy Trinity.[1]

paid for killing of five hedghoogs . .	0	0	10
paid William Appelbee for iron about ye Bell-cag and other places . . .	01	12	08
paid William Sealy for worke about ye Cage and Bells	00	07	09
	£37	8	9

(Page 65). The Account of Ralph Thring and John Goodland for the Yeare 1687.

Receipts.

	s.	d.
Received from Mr. Richard Rosewell for breaking of ye ground in ye Church to burye his Daughter	5	0
(From Tythings &c.) . . Total	20	0	0

Disburstments.

paid John Northam for the fourth bell rop .	00	05	00
paid him for the Tennor rope . . .	00	05	06
paid him for the Clock rop . . .	00	04	06
paid Mr. Ceely for new makeing the Crowne wheel of the Clock and righting of him .	00	10	0
paid Will: Appelbee for Spuks for Knapp Bridge and plats for the bell wheele .	00	04	10
paid for taking of 12 hedghogs . . .	00	02	0
paid for takeing of 4 Polecats . . .	00	00	08

1. It is curious that in the allotment of land by the old village community the constable takes a rod and divides the scot into equal divisions. At the boundary of each division he cuts a mark in the ground, which is called by the same name, "Torc," and which resembles the broad arrow of the ordnance department.

Gomme's *Village Community*, p. 114.

paid to Thomas Crocker for washing ye Surplus the Table Lineinge and scowering ye plate	00	03	0
for makeing of a Bell wheele . . .	00	06	0
for mending ye tribble wheele . . .	00	01	0
paid for oyle and leather for ye bells . .			
paid about Standmoore Bridge . . .	01	19	11
	21	11	7

This account contains twelve entries relating to Bells besides for several Ringing days, £2 19*s.* 10*d.*, and to the "Saxon" for ringing of Corfee, 10*s.*

This account was tendered and allowed by us whose names are hereunto subscribed. } Lewis Parris Vicar ibid.

(and others)

(Page 177, end) A rate made . . . . and towards the Bilding of Standmoore Bridge for 4 monuths . . . . that is to say two for the Church and two for the Hospitalls and Bridges.

(Page 68). The account of Wm. Morris 1688.

Receipts, &c.	39	4	9
		s.	*d.*
Received of Mr. Ware for the breaking the ground in ye church . . .		6	8
Disburstmts.			
To 8 Irish Traulers	0	3	0
Laid out in beere and bread at precession .	1	11	0
for meate and drinke att the 29 May . .	1	12	3
Paid Wm. Flitcher for and towards a breefe .	0	03	06
pd for 2 Books for prayers for the Prince of Walls	0	2	0
To the Ringers the first of July for Rejoycing for the birth of ye Prince of Walls . .	1	14	6
for farketts and carridge for a bonfire for the same rejoyceing	0	5	0

The event which caused all these "rejoycings" occurred on 10 June. The supposed son of James II was said to have been surreptitiously produced, and an imposture to have been practised by a newborn child being introduced into the bed in a warming pan. It was said to be a Jesuit plot to introduce a Roman Catholic heir to the throne. The rejoicings show that the loyal North Curry people believed a

legitimate prince had been born, but historians differ. The unfortunate pretender died in exile in France.

pd John Verrior for a quarters for 4 Frenchmen	0	2	0
gave to a certificate to 3 persons of a great loss by fire	0	2	6
to one Wid. Board and her family to a good briffe for lost by fire	0	2	6
pd Mr. Collins towards Standmoors Bridge[1] .	6	0	0
To ye Periter for a procklymacion . .	0	1	0

This probably relates to "the second declaration of Indulgence" published by king James II, on 25 April, 1688. On May 4, by an order in council, it was to be read by the officiating minister in every church in the country on May 20 and 27. We are not told if it was read in this church, but the majority refused, and it is said not one parish priest in fifty complied.

14 Februy the Crownastion day to ye Ringers .	1	16	0
and in meete at the time	0	5	0

These were exciting times, and it appears the ringers were reated very liberally. Although the rejoicings were so great on June 10, on the birth of a prince, they rang again now on the February 14. King James meanwhile had fled, namely on December 11. King William landed at Torbay on November 5. He and Mary were proclaimed king and queen on February 13. The 14th named in the account must have been in honour of this event. Their coronation took place on April 13, 1689. They doubtless rang again then, as there is an extra amount charged in the next account for ringing days.

(Numerous entries for Travellers having lawful passes.) viz. paid 4 Seamen, pd. 15 Seamen, pd. 12 seamen, Edward Primelaxe and his family, 2 Souldiers disbanded, to 2 Travelers and there quarters all night 4*s.* 6*d.*, and others. for Ringing when the Bishops were discharged out of Tower	0	5	0

In consequence of the Declaration of Indulgence already mentioned, seven bishops, including bishop Ken of Bath and Wells, signed a paper for present-

1. See Stanmoor Bridge, p. 244.

ation to the king, signifying their opinion that the declaration was illegal, and they could not in prudence, honour, and conscience be parties to the solemn publishing of an illegal declaration in the house of God, and during the time of divine service. The paper having been presented, the king dismissed them in great anger, considering them rebellious. On May 27, it was notified to the bishops that they must appear before the king in council on June 8. On this day they appeared before the council, and on being questioned declined to retract, were informed that a criminal information would be exhibited against them in the court of king's bench, and being called upon to enter into recognisances, they refused, and were committed as prisoners to the Tower. The excitement all over the country was intense. On June 15 they were brought before the king's bench. Their counsel contended that they were unlawfully committed. The question whether a peer could be required to enter into recognisances for libel was argued and decided in favour of the crown. The prisoners pleaded not guilty. That day fortnight, June 29, was fixed for the trial. They were now permitted to go to their homes. On June 29 the trial took place, and after most exciting arguments, a verdict of not guilty was pronounced, and they were released on June 30, amid the most tremendous acclamations of the people. It is much to the credit of North Curry that they joined in this rejoicing. In London, never in the memory of the oldest had the streets been in such a glare with bonfires. The windows were lighted with rows of candles; each row consisted of seven, the one in the centre, which was taller than the rest, represented the primate.

(Page 71). Wee crave allowances for those persons that we cannot geather as followeth:

(The names of 55 persons with the amounts due), amongst them Mr. Lewis Parres Cler 1*s.*

The sums of the Lowances is	4	6	2½
my disburstments is	34	7	11
which is	38	14	1½

Soe rec^{d} of the Parish	39	4	9
Soe due to y^{e} Parish	00	10	7

There are here a large number of allowances to those who were unable to pay their rates. This was a year of great depression, and wheat about this time was 70*s.* per quarter.

(page 74). The acconnt of Josia Crocker and Anthony Larcombe, Anno 1689, for fower rates.

Receipts	39	06	09
Disburstments.			
for lead	01	08	06
for soader	02	02	00
for 3 days work	00	07	00
for glazin	03	04	00
for cole and wood	00	03	00

Coal for the plumbers—wood has always been used before. The defective state of the roads prohibited the use of many articles. Coal in particular was never seen except in districts where it was produced, or to which it could be carried by the sea, and was always known in the south of England as sea coal. That used here would have probably come to Knapp bridge and up the river from Bridgwater.

For severall ringing days and goein in a presecion	05	17	00
To Mr. Collins for y^{e} Bridge (Stanmoor) .	06	00	00
To a Trauler and his Houshold . . .	00	05	00
To severall Traulers and Seamen and Ireish Protestants having lawfull passes . .	02	05	03
for three yole rats	00	01	00
for killing 3 Foxes	00	03	00
for 2 Books and proclimacons . . .	00	02	00
for stockinge y^{e} Great Bell . . .	02	03	00
for the Ireish	00	10	00
	37	17	2

Wee doe crave allowances, etc as before £4 1 8.

(Page 79). The account of Samuell Powell and Edward Watts for 1690.

paid Josua Collins for 4 Elmes . . .	00	08	00
pd Will Verrier for 3 Oaks . . .	00	14	00
pd for carrying the Oaks out of y^{e} Copies .	00	01	00

for raising the bridge ends with earth, and other expences for labour, etc., about the Bridge	01	07	00
for killing of nine Polecats	00	03	00
for an order of pennance for Joan Caswill	00	03	06
fer a paper containing a prayer for the K and Q	00	00	06
for 3 ringing days and oyle	04	02	06
To the Glazier for 76 lb of Soder at 12*d.* the Pd and 38 pd of Led at 2*d.* ye pd	04	02	04
pd Same for 8 days work	01	00	00
for wood	00	05	06
for faggots about moor lane	00	05	00
pd for mending the Ch Walls and covering the graves in ye Church	01	00	00
	28	17	5

(Accounts not made up, and in much confusion. Still a large amount for allowances).

(Page 80). Received for the Interest of Three Score and Sixteen pounds thirteen shillings and three pence

The sum of	04	08	04
of Robt. Curry for buriing of Margaret Baulch in ye Church	00	06	08
for buriing David Cealy in ye Church	00	06	08
for buriing M. Rug in the Church	00	06	08
	05	08	02

Laid out in cloth for ye poor people.

(Page 83). May the 30 and the 31, 1688. Then collected for relieving the French Prodestans by Wm. Morris and Laurence Hurston, Churchwardens . £2 14 11

This is the second collection for the Huguenots who were banished from France by the revoking by Louis XIV of the Edict of Nantes, by which Henry IV (1598) had established liberty of worship in France. Above half a million of protestants, many of them the most industrious subjects of the crown, left France; nearly 50,000 settled in England, destined to plant the silk manufacture and other arts among us. Reference has been already made to the first collection. Macaulay says: "The banished Huguenots, on whom the king had frowned for many months, and whom he had defrauded of the alms contributed by the nation, were now relieved and

caressed. An order in council was issued appealing again in their behalf to the public liberality. The rule requiring them to qualify themselves by conforming to the Anglican worship seems to have been silently abrogated, and the defenders of the king had the effrontery to affirm that the rule which he really devised himself had been adopted by the prelates of the established church."

Somerset.

(Page 83). October the 13th, 1690. Then collected from house to house in the Parish of North Curry in the County aforesaid by a Breefe for St. George within the Borough of Southwark the sum of five shillings and two pence halfpenny. Lewis Fry Vic[1] (? Paris), Sam: Powell and Edward Watts Ch. Wardens.

November 12. 90.

Then collected, etc., for Bungay in the County of Suffolk, 3*s.* 3½*d.* Lewis Parris, Vic, etc.

February 15-90. Then collected in the Church of North Curry, etc., 2*s.* 7¾*d.*, for Morpeth in the County of Northumberland loss by fire. Lewis Parris, Vic.

May 25-90. Then collected for East Smithfield, Middlesex, 5*s.* 6¾*d.*, by the aforesaid minister and Ch. Wardens.

June 15-90. Collected in the Parish Church for Bishops Lavington in Wiltshire, 2*s.* 11¾*d.*, by Lewis Parris, Vic., etc.

June 26-89. Collected from house to house for the relief of the Irish Protestants, £5 8*s.* 6¾*d.*, by Lewis Parris, Vic. Josiah Crocker, Anthony Larcombe, Churchwardens.

(Page 91). Collected July 25, 1692, from house to house in y^e^ Parish of North Curry towards the breefe for y^e^ Redemption of our English Captives in y^e^ Turks dominions, £2 15*s.* 4*d.* by us. Lewis Parris, Vic, ibid.

Considerable sums are collected for various cases of distress; in fact, the North Curry sympathies may be said to be world-wide. Particular sympathy is shown for the Irish Protestants. There was war with Ireland, king James having landed there, being assisted by the French king, and the protestants suffered much persecution. The famous siege of Londonderry took place in 1689, and the battle of the Boyne, July 1, 1690. There was also war with France, and much distress in the country. Taxes were much increased, the excise duties on beer and ale were doubled, and all import

1. No such name occurs among the list of North Curry vicars.

duties were increased. Large sums were ordered to be raised by monthly assessment on land.

(Page 93). The account of Robert Hill and Edward Derham for 1691.

Receipts, etc.	16	05	2
Disburstments.			
For 2½ Hundred of Reed	2	10	00
For twenty two hundred of spares . .	00	05	06
For 5 Hundred of Lidgers . . .	00	01	03
Spukes and Nailes	00	00	06
for 5 hundred of twigs	00	02	06
for 11 day's Thatching	00	16	06
for tending ye thatcher and watering the Reed	00	12	00

This account shows the value of reed compared with that of the present day, and of the other articles used. The thatcher's wages were 1*s.* 6*d.* per day for repairs to church house.

To John Wharton Capt of a ship . .	00	05	00
To Floock the Appiritor for 3 publ prayer books for ye Fast and Thanksgiving and 5th November and proclamacons . .	00	03	00
To Thomas Lane for ye Fast Book for ye 8 April 1692 and proclamacon . . .	00	01	00

These were troubled times for the country. The French king had resolved to invade England, and was engaged in the interest of James, and various plots were formed with the view of effecting his restoration. A scheme was also formed to assassinate king William, who was on the continent. A large body of troops was collected at La Hogue ready to embark. This plan was frustrated by the brilliant victory of La Hogue, when the French fleet was almost totally destroyed. The battle of La Hogue took place May 19, 1692. A day of thanksgiving was appointed for the victory. In commemoration of this battle queen Mary gave up the palace of Greenwich as a hospital for disabled seamen, and the erection of the present Greenwich hospital was begun by William in 1696. Macaulay writes on this subject: "It is not easy for us to form a notion of the difficulty which there then was in providing at short notice commodious shelter and skilful attendance for

hundreds of maimed and lacerated men. At present, every county, every large town, can boast of some spacious palace in which the poorest labourer who has a fractured limb may find an excellent bed, an able medical attendant, a careful nurse, medicines of the best quality, and nourishment such as an invalid requires. But there was not then in the whole realm a single infirmary supported by voluntary contribution ; even in the capital the only edifices open to the wounded were the two ancient hospitals of Saint Thomas and Saint Bartholomew. The queen gave orders that in both these hospitals arrangements should be made at the public charge for the reception of patients from the fleet."

(Page 69). The account of William Hurston and Ralph Clothier for 1692.

Disbursements.

To 13 memed soldiers	00	02	06
To a 11 memed soldiers . . .	00	04	00
To 4 soldiers from Flanders . . .	00	01	00

(and numerous other, soldiers seaman and Travellers).

War with France in the Netherlands. The investment of Namur. Great distress in the country, failure of the harvest, a very wet season. No fruit ripened, the price of a quarter of wheat doubled. The evil was aggravated by the state of the silver coin, which had been clipped to such an extent that the words pound and shilling had ceased to have a fixed meaning.

(This account also contains over 20 entries for hedgehogs, polecats and other vermin.)

(Page 105). The account of Andrew Wadham and Henry Stone for the Yeare 1693.

Receipts 3 moneths	30	12	0

Andrew Wadham's Account.

(each Ch. W. appears now to keep a separate account and each pays in most instances, half).

for 45 lbs of soder	2	5	4
for halfe a pound rosan	0	0	03
for one dozon and half of quaris . .	0	1	6
(? panes of glass).			
for atendens to y^e^ seder . . .	0	17	6
for wood	0	8	2
For Traulers with lawful passes . .	2	1	6

for pole cats and hegogs . . .	0	8	6
for a cay (key) for ye tower door . .	0	0	6
laid out for ye pound tax for Mr. Chester .	1	2	0
for a segastracon	0	6	8
for a procklimacon and prayer book . .	0	1	6
	14	18	4½

"A segastracon" is the sequestration of the living consequent on the death of Mr. Parris, the vicar.

The last item probably refers to a proclamation issued by the queen to check the progress of discontent, by the imposition of heavy burdens consequent on the war in the Netherlands. The king was in the Netherlands. England was distracted by domestic dissension and overspread with vice, corruption, and profaneness, malcontents daily increased, they murmured at the grievances and made much impression on the people already irritated by heavy burdens and distressed in trade, and a reward was offered to such as would discover seditious libellers.

Henry Stones Account.

For 5 Hospitalls	3	6	8
(For soder—for 17½ days work, for 1 doz and half of Quaris &c. same as in last account.)			
for goeing for ye Doctor . . .	0	1	0
Hen: Stones is .	9	18	6
And: Wadhams is	14	8	4½

(Page 110). The account of Robert Fox and William Androse, 1694 and 1695. (This is a two years' account and each churchwarden has a separate one).

Richard Fox disburstments.

for drawing ye Diall	0	1	0
To Traulers having passes . . .	6	15	0

A large sum for travellers. Soldiers, about this time, were disbanded by tens of thousands.

For planks for the Bridges and wagis for the workmen	5	8	6
for several ringing days	2	13	0

To ye ringers April 15th	0	14	9
total .	31	16	7

Seen and allowed by us Parishioners.
John Chester, Vic. (and others).

The account of Will: Andrews for the years 1694 and 1695.

for mending Knapp Bridge before hee was then made	0	05	0
2 Warrants for Farmer and Newton for threatening to run from their family .	0	02	0
At Bridgwater twice to have the Justices opinion about the binding out apprentices and expence with the gentmen . .	0	05	0
paid ye zayers	0	12	0
To passengers having passes . . .	1	17	6
More to passengers	0	11	5
for killing of all sorts of varmints . .	0	13	7
Expenses ye fift of November in bread chees and beare	1	17	0
Numerous expenses to Knapp Bridge.			
To the Countie Bridges at Bridgwater Sessions	0	08	6
To the ringers when the Namer was taken .	0	01	6

Although only 1*s.* 6*d.* was spent on ringing on this occasion, it was one of the greatest successes of William in the Netherlands. The surrender took place of Namur and its citadel respectively on August 4, and September 1, 1695, the seventh year of William and Mary. Namur was situated at the confluence of the Sambre and the Meuse in the Netherlands, and was one of the strongest fortresses in Europe: it surrendered three years before to Lewis, king of France, after an eight days siege.

for meate, bread and chees the 5th Nov., and beare	1	14	0
for beare and other things for the ringers on the King's thanksgiving day . .	0	14	9
for making ye firstry flower . . .	0	02	0
(Not summed up) .			

Seen and allowed by us Parishioners.
John Chester, Vic.
(and other signatures).

"The King's thanksgiving day." A plot was discovered to assassinate the king on his way to Rich-

mond, January 15, 1696. Five of the conspirators were condemned and executed (March 18 and April 3). Other plots, also, were discovered against the king's life, and of high treason: there was a threatened invasion by king James, and great indignation against France. The lords besought his majesty, in a solemn address, to appoint a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God for having defeated the barbarous purposes of his enemies, and this was observed with uncommon zeal and devotion on April 7.

A proclamation was also issued about this time (1695, Dec. 19) in reference to clipped money. The value of money in consequence of clipping sank to such a degree that a guinea was reckoned adequate to thirty shillings. A duty was placed on glass windows to make up for the loss on clipped money, also on marriages, births and burials, bachelors and widows, coffee, tea, and chocolate.

This was about the time of the establishment of the bank of England in the house of the Company of Grocers. The number of persons then employed was only fifty-four: they are now nine hundred. The sum paid in salaries was only £4350: it now exceeds £210,000. The incomes of commercial clerks are on an average three times as large in the reign of Victoria as they were in the reign of William and Mary.

Money was much needed at this time to pay for the constant wars with France in the Netherlands, and in order to raise supplies it was resolved to tax all persons according to the value of their real and personal estates, their stock on land and in trade, their incomes by offices, pensions and professions (? the first income tax). A duty of one penny per week for one year was laid on all persons not receiving alms; a further imposition of a farthing in the pound per week was fixed on all servants receiving four pounds per annum and upwards to eight pounds a year; those who received from eight to sixteen pounds were taxed at one halfpenny per pound. An aid of three shillings in the pound for one year was laid on all lands and tenements. Not one person in the land was exempt from taxation who was supposed

able to bear any part of the burden.—(Hume and Smollett's *History*).

Besides, duties were laid on wine, vinegar, tobacco, salt, leather, malt, mum, sweets, cider and perry. Peddlers and hawkers to take out licences.

In these latter days we have much reason to be thankful!

(Page 117). The accounts of Robert Fox and William Androse for the yeare 1696.

Robert Fox, disburstments.

for setten 6 Trees in ye Churchyard . .	00	03	00
recd for 2 Seats of Mr. Hammond and Mr. Androwse	00	02	00
	5	4	0

William Androse Disburstments.

For raising the ends of Knap and the wale at New Bridge	03	00	00
for engrossing and keeping accounts for 3 years	00	15	00
for the quarters of prisner and his gard at Godfrays	00	03	06
flurrishing the King's Armes . . .	00	05	00
ye disburstments .	38	12	8
to allowances .	03	06	7

This probably means painting and redecorating the royal arms after recent troubles.

The accounts here are very badly kept and in much confusion.

(Page 121). The names of those that have the Stock Money.

(Here follow eight names). total . £74 10 00

Delivered to Rich Coggin and ? Churchwardens by ye old Ch: Ws. ye sum of £74 10s., due from the above mentioned persons on their respective bonds on ye severall days when payable.

(On the same page).

Delivered to Edward Sperring and Willm Nurston Churchwardens ye Stock Money in ye yeare 1698.

(Here follow nine names). total sum . £78 10 00

(Page 123). The account of Richard Coggan for the yeare 1697. (Each churchwarden has a separate account).

To seamen and soldiers having lawful passes .	02	04	02
for wood and Coale used about soddering ye Tower and Leades . . .	00	09	08
for spikes and nailes used about the bell wheeles and Tower and plates . . .	00	16	05
Paid Willm Bellringer for a new cover for the barier (? bier)	00	04	05
for Clayes for the beaire . . .	00	00	08
paid Wm Belringer for new making the wheels and riteing the cage	02	03	09
pd Willm Belringer, Henery Owen and his man for raseing the greate bell and new hanging and fitting ye brasses . . .	00	12	00
for Clayes for the chancle dore . .	00	00	06
Expended on several ringing days . .	04	11	2
for cullor for the weather cock and post and oyle for same	00	02	00
for the Dyall	00	05	00
pd Wm Appelbee for Iron for the dyall .	00	01	06
for carring away ye yearth . . .	00	05	00

(Account not made up).

The account of Nicholas Bridge for the year 1697.

gave to severell memed soldres and seemen having lafull passes . . .	00	15	06
gave Mr. Brayelly to com and fowe (come and view) the worke	00	05	00
Expences the sam tyem	00	01	00
for severell ringing days . . .	02	05	06

(No account made up).

28 Oct., 1698. Then Ric: Coggan and Nich Bridge past upp there account and then there remainds due to Rich Coggan from the Parrish the sum of 5 10 2

Jno Saxon, etc.

The ringing days are expensive, amounting together to £6 16*s.* 2*d.* Seamen and soldiers are numerous.

This may be accounted for by the proclamation of peace with France. The treaty of Ryswick was signed on September 10, and solemnized on December 2, 1697, by a public day of thanksgiving by the king's order; and on that day St. Paul's was opened, after restoration, for public worship, it having been destroyed in the great fire of 1665. Macaulay

says of this rejoicing, "Never since the year of the restoration had there been such signs of public gladness. In some places the whole population of its own accord repaired to the churches to give thanks. Nor was one holiday enough for the expression of so much joy. On the 4th November, the anniversary of of the king's birth, and the 5th November, the anniversary of his landing at Torbay, the bell-ringing, the shouting and illuminations were renewed both in London and all over the country."

(Page 129). The account of Edward Sperring and William Nurston for year 1698.

Edward Sperring's disburstments.

(The usual ringing days and travellers).

Expended a prosescion at Mare Cross . .	00	06	00
Expended the same time at Hamme . .	00	03	00
Expended the next day at Wm. Owens .	01	06	00
total .	£12	11	8

"Expended at procession," *i.e.* beating the bounds of the parish. These two points of Meare Cross and Ham indicate the border line between this and neighbouring parishes, and refreshments were always a part of the proceedings.

William Nurston's disburstments.

(Many items the same as before, including hospital, travellers, bell-ringing, bell and clock repairs, vermin, etc.)

Expenses at our monthly meetins . . .	00	05	00
Expended at procession . . .	01	11	6
Expended a presscion for bread . .	00	10	0
pd more for cheese	00	04	0
William Nurston's receipts . . .	15	0	7
His disburstments with the allowances .	14	19	6
Remained to ye parish . .		1	1

Ezra Pierce, Vic., etc.

(Page 133). The account of William Bower for yeare 1699.

pd for a proclimacon	00	01	00
pd for making ye black cloth . . .	00	01	06

pd for a black cloth and triming . .	02	13	00
pd John Hoyle for mending ye old black cloth	00	01	06
	15	06	11
Allowances is . .	01	17	04
	17	04	03
Recd by Rate . .	18	19	06

Ezra Pierce, Vicar, etc.

(Page 139). The account of William Hunter and Henry Pococke for year 1700.

For riding to Justices and privie sessions .	00	08	06
Expended about renewing the bonds . .	00	06	00
For killing varmints	00	08	06
Expended in carrying about Aprentices .	00	05	00
	12	13	6

Henry Pocock's disburstments.

Expended when the widow Bower gave in her accounts	00	03	06
a beok of Common Prayer (entered in both accounts)	00	13	06
Paid to Mr. Pavior for the lent of his horse to Wells sessions	00	02	06
for my own Horse hire	00	02	06
Expended at Wells sessions . . .	00	19	06
	08	12	4

(Page 43). The account of Willm Tice for year 1701.

for carriage of a tree towards making a current for ye leades	00	02	00
To William Appelbee for bolts for the Church Lions (?)	00	03	00
To John Moor for a Tree and 5 Hedghogs .	00	10	06
	13	00	03

The account of John Ludwell also for year 1701.

Paid ye Plummer for Lead work (also in last account)	04	04	00
paid ye Perr for books and ye sentences .	00	06	00

The last item is on account of the death of king William, March 8, 1702, and the accession of queen Anne.

paid to the Countie Bridge for Lillesdon and Wrantage	00	08	11
	18	18	03

(Page 147). The account of John Stevens and Robert Ceely for 1702.

John Stevens disburstments for North Curry Tythinge.

paid for beare to Mr. Brayley's workmen and men to help up the timber and led . .	0	8	0
paid the macions for worke about the Church .	2	4	3
paid Mr. Brayley	8	6	0
paid for beare for the same	0	4	6
paid the carpenters wages and Tymber . .	2	8	6
paid for beare for the same	0	10	0
more board and josies use about the church .	0	12	0
Expended the 5th Nov. on the Ringers and other Ringing days	6	5	0
	£29	9	0

(Page 149). Robert Ceely's account for 1702.

Comon prayer book and proclamacon . .	0	2	6
(The other items are almost a duplicate of the last, showing extensive repairs to the lead work).			
total .	22	11	6

(Beer is also an important item in both accounts,)

The ringers receive a large amount. Queen Anne was proclaimed March 8, 1702. On May 4 war was proclaimed with France. The queen in this year appointed a day of thanksgiving for the signal success of her arms under the earl, afterwards the duke, of Marlborough, the duke of Ormond and Sir George Rooke, and on that day, which was the 12th Nov., she went in state to St. Paul's, attended by both houses of parliament.

(Page 151). The account of Thomas Rowswell and John Nurton, 1703.

Each churchwarden keeps a separate account, one being almost a duplicate of the other. In each are items for glazing and lead work, including the following:

Mr. Brayley for lead and worke and soder .	05	00	10

This may be for the repair of damage caused by the "great storm," Nov. 26 to Dec. 1. The beginning of the winter was marked by a storm of unparalleled fierceness. The royal navy lost twelve ships and fifteen hundred men; the damage in London was computed at one million pounds, and among other loss of life, bishop Kidder and his wife were killed by the fall of a chimney whilst in bed at the palace of Wells.

(Page 155). The Account of Robt. Hill and Charles Weaver, 1704.

Robt. Hill's disburstmts for North Curry Tything.

Paid for a Book of Homolies . . .	0	10	0
(A good deal of work about the Church House) for 150 Reed sheaves for ye Church House .	1	8	4
paid Tho: Thomas for laying 150 Reed sheaves and watering them at eight shillings an hundred .	0	11	4
pd Do for half one hundred of Lidgers and 100 of spars	0	0	4
pd Do. for 80 twigs	0	0	4
	11	15	2

Ezra Pierce, Vicar.

(Page 159). Charles Weaver's disburstmts for Knapp, Lillesdon, and Wrantage.

Sept. 7th. paid ye Ringers . . . 0 15 10½

Probably the occasion of the arrival in this country of Sir George Rooke after the taking of Gibraltar, July 23. In this year also took place, on August 13, the famous battle of Blenheim under the duke of Marlborough, one of the most complete victories in history.

The other end. The rate is headed "A monthly rate made ye 5th April to collect for a month and half," etc. Amongst the names are:

North Curry Tything	Mr. Robort Hooper for the Farme. Mr. Sedgingham or occupr Mr. Wm. Cealey. Ezra Pierce, vic.
Lillesdon Tything	The Coheirs of Courts. Mrs Elizabeth Courte. Mr. Alexander Courte.
Wrantage Tything	Charles Pyne Gent. Mrs. Pawlett. Henry Portman, Esq.

(Page 161). Thomas Rowswell's disbursments for North Curry Tything, 1705.

paid Will. Apelbe for ieren worke about ye Tower	4	7	00
paid Golly towards the Vane	00	10	00
paid towardes Brefes	00	07	06
paid for washing the Sorples	00	16	00
expences on the workmen when wee cared the tember and other tyems	02	05	00
paid Mr. Brayley	17	12	00
paid Henary Chard	07	10	00
paid Willi Pane for caring of liem and led	00	12	00

There are heavy expenses about the tower, and the other churchwarden's accounts are duplicates of this.

Expences on the workmen when the dared up the lyent	00	13	00
total	52	17	1

This has reference to the "lion" or royal arms before mentioned; "dared up" probably means placed it up, or secured it—a local term.

(Page 163). The accounts of Artear Weavear.

Expended on Mr. Brayley when he came to see the work	00	03	06
paid Ruth Colly for draying tember and sand	01	02	06
paid for draing the tember from Cathanger	00	13	00
paid for a Church Bybball	00	10	00
paid for the gold of the Vane	01	00	00
paid Golly for the Vane	01	02	00
paid for two bueshelles of molte	00	04	08

(This is the only reference to malt, and suggests the Church Ale).

(And numerous other entries the same as the last account)

making a total of	51	6	1

(Page 167). Robert Hoopers Disbursments for North Curry Tything.

pd for gouin about the Church windows	00	12	00
pd John Crese for glazing ye Church windows	05	13	5
Total disbursm^{ts}	14	6	2½
his allowances	00	10	9
	14	16	11½

Rec^{d} by 3 months rate at 4 17 7 per month.	14	12	9
due to the Ch. W. Mr. Hooper from the Parish		4	2½

(Page 169). William Tuttetts disburstments.

Pd Will Webber Tythingman of Lillsdon for the County Goiles	00	02	09
pd Robbert Craasmen Constab^{e} for one Hospitall	00	04	04
pd Arthur Waver Tythingman of Knapp for the County Bruges and Gailes . .	00	02	06
pd Robbert Curry Tythingman of Wranthach for County Burges and Gails . .	00	03	9

These are new forms of entries, and doubtless refer to some county charges.

paid Mr. Pearce for Eleaven Brefs . .	01	07	6
(and many other items as in the last account, including)			
Mr. Crease for Glazing Windows . .	5	13	6
Total of his disburstments .	13	16	7
Total of his allowances .	00	11	10½
	£14	8	5½
Received 3 mo^{ths} Rate at 5 18 1¼ per moth is	17	14	3½

The charge for certain briefs occurs in most of the accounts: here it is paid to Mr. Pearce who was the vicar. In relation to these, I have found among the West Hatch books the following curious old circular:

"To the minister and churchwardens of the parish of West Hatch.

"Gentlemen,—Many complaints have been made by persons who have been under the necessity of applying for Briefs, I have endeavoured to ascertain the cause of the delay, and also the reason the collections are so small, and find that it is owing to the neglect of some of the Ch. Ws. in returning the Briefs, and the omission of some clergymen either to read them or frequently to read them all at once. I have examined the undertakers accounts, and can safely assure you they are kept in the most regular manner. I have, therefore, the Lord Chancellor's

directions to express his wish that the following regulations may be strictly complied with.

"I am, Gentlemen,

"Your obedient humble servant,

"John Nares.

"*Secretary of Briefs* to the Lord Chancellor."

"1 *March*, 1804."

"Ch. Ws. and Chapel Ws., Teachers and Preachers of every separate congregation or persons who have taughed or preached among Quakers shall immediately after receiving Briefs from the Undertaker endorse the time of receiving and set their names.

"Then the Ch. Ws. and Chl. Wrs. shall forthwith deliver them to the Minister.

"The Ministers on receipt shall endorse the time and set their names.

"Then the ministers in two months after receipt shall on some Sunday immediately before Sermon openly read or cause them to be read.

"Then the Ch. or Chapel Ws. shall collect the money that shall be freely given either in the assembly or from House to House.

"Next the sum collected, the place where, and the time when, shall be endorsed on the Back of each Brief, and signed by the Minister and Ch. Wardens, or by the Teacher and two elders.

"Afterwards, by the request of the Undertaker, the Ch. Ws. shall deliver to him the Briefs endorsed and the money collected.

"Every Minister, Curate, Teacher, Preacher, Ch. Wn., Chapel Wn., and Quaker refusing or neglecting to do anything above required shall forfeit £20. And in every Parish or Chapelry, etc., a register shall be kept, to which all persons at all times may resort without fee."

(Page 170). 1708, Augst ye 13th Daij.
Sould to my selfe Alex Potenger a small seat in ye Church under ye pulpett it being ye outermust of all next ye [Belfry ?] for . . . 0 1 0

(Page 173). The account of Alexander Potenger and John Moor for 1708.

Alexander Potengers disbursments.

for Goals and County Bridges . . .	1	12	9½
Tape and expences about sorting the Parish papers	0	1	6
expended in calling in the Parish bonds . .	0	2	0

These bonds now amount to £77 10*s.*, including "in Arthur Weavers hands without bond £4 0*s.* 0*d.*," but there is no regular account of the interest being given away in cloth and garments as before.

for proclamations and Prayer Books . .	0	4	0

This refers to the Act of Union with Scotland, which was passed on March 16, 1707, and the two countries were united into one kingdom, and carried into operation on May 1. The "Union Jack," bearing the red cross of St. George and the diagonal white cross of St. Andrew, was appointed by proclamation to be the national flag July 28; May 1 being appointed a day of public thanksgiving for the union.

paid my part of the Plumers bill . . .	3	6	4
paid towards the timber to John Speak, Esq. .		12	0
(and numerous expenses in lead work, carpenters, masons, etc., in which each churchwarden pays half.)			
Total .	25	15	1

(Page 175). John Moors disburstments.

John Speke Esq^re^ for Timber . . .	3	0	0
for carryin Lead to Taunton . . .	0	10	0
Tho: Crooker for beer for the Carpenters . .		8	8
(and duplicates of the other account).			
Total .	25	1	9

In an old register book is the following:

"Memorandum y^t^ this present year viz^t^ 1709 was built at y^e^ expense of Ezra Pierce then Vicar y^e^ Pew in the North East side of North Curry Church for y^e^ use of y^e^ Vicar for ever."

Ezra Pierce, Vicar.
Alexander Potenger,
John Moor } Churchwardens

(Page 179—181). The accounts of Thomas Hooper and Thomas Edwards, 1709.

(These contain only the usual entries.)

amounting to	16	12	9
and	16	4	3

(being almost duplicates of each other).

(Page 183). The account of Robert Wescombe and William Brounsford, 1710

Robert Wescombes disburstments.

Pd the Perifer of Wells for 2 Procklemashons and a book of prayer . . .	00	03	00
pd Antony Apelby for shuten the Clepter .	00	01	06
(Still a good deal of plumbers work).			
Total .	9	9	11

(Page 185). William Brounsfords disburstments.

Expended att Tanton 10 times about taken up of sholgers	00	10	00
(Numerous sums paid for hedgehogs and polecats. The remainder is a duplicate of the last)			
amounting to	8	18	6

(Page 189). (Several sales of seats now follow).

Nouember the 7, 1712.

Then bought of William Foster and Thomas Wadham Churchwardens one seting in the first sete one the left side next the chancell for the lief of Richard Cogen Junr for one shilling by the consent of the Minister and others of the Inhabitance of the Parish.

Nouember the 7, 1712.

Then bought of William Foster and Thomas Wadham Churchwardens one seting in the first sete one left side next the chancell for the life of William Foster for one shilling by the consent, etc.

October ye third, 1712.

Then bought of William Foster and Thomas Wadham Ch. Ws. ye too short seates near ye ile towards the Belfry for ye lives of Mr. Nicholas Bridge, Grace Bridge his wife, Josiah Bridge their son for two shillings by the consent, etc. Signed by

The mark of William Foster.
The mark of Thomas Wadham.

(It is very evident that some of the churchwardens could not write).

Ezra Pierce, Vicar.
Law Brome, Curate.

(Page 190). Oct. 6th, 1712.
Then bought (of the same) one small seat on the east side of the ile for the lives of Francis Derham, Grace Derham, and the first-born child of Francis Derham for the purchase of two shillings by the consent of, etc.

(Page 191). Jan. 14, 1712.
Then bought (of the same) two short seats containing five sittings on the west end of the Isle to erect a pew on which is to belong to the dwelling house of Benjamin Calbreath, during the lives of him the said B. C., Elizabeth his wife, and the next born child of the sd Benjamin and Elizabeth, and for the lives of William Calbreath, Mary Bale, and Elizabeth Bale for the purchase of three shillings by the consent of, etc.
Consented to

Lau Brome, Curate.	William Foster.
Jno Saxon.	The mark of
John Ludwell.	Thomas Wadham.

April 15th, 1713.
Then bought . . . . three sittings in first seat as you come into ye body of ye church on ye left hand and adjoining to ye Clarks desk for ye lives of William Pavy, Edward Pavy, and John his sons for ye purchase of two shillings by ye consent of, etc.

(Page 192). The 26 day of March, 1713.
Then bought of William Foster Churchwarden the ends of two seats containing foure settings on the left hand goeing from the chancell to the Bellfree in order to erect a pew there for the lives of John Saxon, Margaret his wife, John, Robert, Mary and Jane Saxon, children of the above named John and Margarett Saxon, for the purtich of three shillings by the consent of the said parishiners.
May ye 20, 1713.
Then bought of William Foster, Sen., Ch: Wn., a seat between William Calbreaths and ye fore seat against ye body of ye Church containing three sittings for ye use of Arthur Weaver, Edward Derham, John Derham, during their lives for ye purchase of one shilling and sixpence by ye consent of, etc.

(Page 193). The account of William Foster, Sr one of the Ch: Wardens for 1713.
There are about 30 "Headhoges" paid for at *2d.* each, and 6 "polecatts" at *4d.* each.
To the Horsepittle are three entries at *4s. 4d.*, and one at *2s. 2d.*

(Page 195). Recd from the Parish as followeth.
Recd by rate beinge £4 12*s.* 10*d.* by a mounthly rate for

the Tythinge of North Curry for the collection of six monuths which amountes untow	27	15	10
Rec^{d} in money of the old churchwardens .	02	02	00
More of Mr. Bridge for a seate in North Curry Church	00	02	00
more of John Saxon for a seate . . .	00	03	00
more of Benjiman Calbreath for a seate .	00	03	00
more of Francis Derham seate . . .	00	02	00
more of Richard Cogin Jun for a seate . .	00	01	00

(Neither this nor the account of disbursments is made up).

(Page 196). February 26th, 171$\frac{3}{4}$. Then bought of William Mead and John Foster Church Ws. part of two seats next unto Mr. Ezra Pierces Pew for to erect a Pew and this Pew is to belong unto the dwelling House of Mr. Matthew Pileman for the Lives of Matthew Pileman, Frances, Mary, Elizabeth, Jn^{o} Ann, Edward, Francis, for the purchase of three shillings containing eight sittings by the consent of the minister and other the inhabitants of the Parish.

Ezra Pierce, Vicar.
William Mead, John Foster } Chur. Wardens.

(Several other sales of seats for lives occur about this period.)

(Page 197). The account of Will^{m} Mead and John Foster, 1713 and 1714 part of.

paid for makeing and coluering the Dial .	00	14	00
paid Jn^{o} Bishop y^{e} 7th July for righting the fourth Bell wheel and raiseing the third Bell	00	02	06
Two new Bell ropes	00	06	00
paid for a form of Prayer for the Peace .	00	02	00
Expended ye 7th July upon a ringing day for y^{e} Peace	00	11	00

This refers to the Peace of Utrecht, May 5, 1713, and a public thanksgiving day for the same on the 7th July. This must have been a day of great "rejoycing," and the bells were specially set up for the occasion. By this famous treaty we acquired Gibraltar, Hudson's Bay, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, and secured that the same sovereign should not reign over both France and Spain.

(Page 199). (John Foster's disburstments also contain duplicates of these charges).

About 40 "Hedghogs" are paid for and about 20 Field "Catts."

(Page 205). An account of Nicholas Bridge and Matthew Pileman for 1714.

Nicholas Bridges Disburstmts

pd to the Apparitor for a Prayer Book . .	00	01	00
pd to the Apparitor for another Prayer Book .	00	01	06
Expended on the Kings Coronation day .	00	14	00

Queen Anne died on August 1, and king George I was proclaimed. The king arrived in this country on September 17, and was crowned on October 20.

Expended on meetings about the Parish Bonds	00	03	00
pd John Collins to fetch stamp paper from Taunton to draw the Parish Bonds on .	00	01	00
Expended on making the said Parish Bonds .	00	09	06

Matthew Pilemans disbursments.

Contain many items as above, also:

for a writ to Thomas Wadham touching the Parish Bonds	00	10	00
for renewing the said writ . . .	00	06	11
for a sheriffs warrant upon the writ . .	00	02	00

In an old register book is the following entry:

"Dec. 6th, 1714. The walk of Elms in the Churchyard leading to the Porch was planted by me Ezra Pierce, Vicar.
R. Wescombe."

These elms, therefore, in 1901 are 187 years old.

(Page 209). The account of Nicholas Bridge and Matthew Pileman for 1715.

This appears to be a very important year: extensive repairs are made to the roofs in lead, etc., and the accounts show the importance of the river Tone as a means for transit of goods.

The accounts are duplicates of each other, and the expenses are heavy.

pd Council for puteing a case concerning the Parish money in Stock . . .	00	05	00
other expences in goeing to Council . .	00	02	00

A very small sum for counsel! This was probably a local solicitor.

About this time attention is drawn to the parish

stock money, which appears to have been lost; no accounts have been given of it, or of the distribution of interest arising therefrom, for some time. The bonds now appear, but of a diminished amount, and the interest is again given in linen, cloth, etc.

pd for carrying of 5 load of the church Ledd to the river	00	07	06
pd for carrying of six Load of Timber and Ledd from Knap Bridge	01	01	00
Gave to the workmen in Beer	00	02	00
pd the workmen in Taunton on their haleing down the Ledd to the River	00	01	00
pd to John Cope for carrying the Ledd to Taunton and the Ledd and Timber from Taunton and Lockage	01	03	06
pd Mr. Cadby the Plummer as by his bill appeareth	19	14	4
pd Mr. Garway as by his bill alsoe appeareth	17	09	09
pd the workmen in beer whilst they were about the Church	00	16	06
Expended on Mr. Garway and Mr. Cadby at Bridget Potengers whilst they were mending the Church	00	02	09
Mr. Bridges account is	49	11	6
Allowances that year	02	05	10
Disburst in all with the allowances	51	17	4
Rec^{d} by rate 10 moneths	45	17	06
Mr. Matthew Pilemans account	47	05	00½
His allowances for the year	1	18	5½
	49	03	04¾
Rec^{d} 10 moneths per Rate	58	13	11

It appears the receipts from the rate are, in the case of one churchwarden, for the North Curry tything only. Those of the other are from the tythings of Knapp, Lillesdon, and Wrantage.

It will be seen from the above account that Knapp Bridge must have been an important point on the river. We have had, from time to time, frequent items for the repair of this bridge. We here see it was a principal landing place on the river, and that its position, being very near the bottom of the hill at

Knapp, made it the most accessible spot. The river at that time was beginning to be important for navigation. We see by this account that locks were established, and payment is charged for lockage. The Tone passing through this parish was an important feature. In early records extracted from *Wells M.S.S.* reference has been made to the lords' fisheries on it. It is apparent that before roads were made it was the highway for goods. Ham was also an important river port. The extracts given from Savage's *History of Taunton*, relating to this river, show its importance before the time of canals and railways. About this time special attention was given to its development, and it will be seen that the fees paid for lockage about this period was about £380 per annum, which by 1821 had increased to £2,368.[1]

(Page 217). The account of Anthony Coggan and John Hurston for 1716.

Anthony Coggan's disburstments.

Expended at ye King Coronation day my part	00	10	00
Expended on the Ringing when ye King came home	00	06	00

Owing to complications on the continent, and more particularly in relation to the king's Hanoverian dominions, which were threatened by the king of Sweden, the king had left England in July. The Pretender had landed in Scotland, and having raised an army, marched as far as Preston, where he was defeated. These events led to the display of loyalty as above, and also to that shown in another entry.

pd John Creasse for new drawing ye centances and cullering ye Pillors	02	03	00
pd for Oaker and Spanish white and blew delivered to him	00	02	06
Expended goeing a presesion	01	08	00
Pd John Northam to go to shew the way	00	02	00

The following is from an old register book:

"North Curry procession for viewing the bounds of the

1. See page 126.

Parish was the 30 and 31st May, 1717. By common guess 26 miles and half round.

Ezra Pierce, Vicar.

245143 acres. } John Hurston } Ch Wardens."
William Mead } Anthony Coggan }

There is evidently an error in the acreage.

(Page 218). There follow about 35 entries for stoats, field "catts" and "hedgdogs."

total .	21	2	2½

(Page 221). John Hurston's disburstments.
(Most are duplicates of the last. Numerous entries for vermin).

one Hedgdog that I killed my Self . .	00	00	02
total .	18	13	10½

(Page 225). The Interest money on Bonds amounting to £32, namely £1 12s. is distributed in Kersy, Shagg, linen, and Sardge to 9 poor persons.

Signed by Ezra Pierce, Vicar.
(and 21 others.)

(Page 227). Sale of seats. May 9th, 1718.
Then sold unto John Ceely two settings in the seat behind Mr. John Saxons pew for the term of Three lives that is for my own John Ceely Anne Ceely my sister and my first lawful borne child for one shilling by the consent of the churchwardens and Parishioners.

Jn° Saxon } Church
Francis Derham } Wardens

December the 2th (1726 ?).
Then sold unto Elizabeth wife of John Coggan the seat going into the church against the alley for the term of the lives of Elizabeth Coggan, Margeret Hooper, Rachel Hooper Daughter of Thomas Hooper, Rachel and Margaret Daughters of John Coggan for one shilling by the consent of the minister, Churchwardens and Parishioners.

Ezra Pierce, Vicar.
Francis Derham. James Exon, Churchwarden.
Robert Cogan.

(Page 229). The account of John Saxon and Francis Derham, 1717.
John Saxons disburstments.

Carring two load of led from the Church to the River	00	04	00

Water carriage of the same to Bridgwater .	00	05	00
Do. from Bridgwater	00	05	00
Carring two Load of Sand from the River to the Church	00	02	06
Expended the 28th and 29th of May my part .	00	10	00
paid for wood to melt the Soder . .	00	03	06
Gave a Ministers Widow having a lawfull pass	00	02	06
my part of Georg Hoopers bill . . .	05	00	00
Creasses bill my part	03	11	11
The Plummers bill my part . . .	10	06	2½
Total .	33	19	6
Received by rate 5 rates att £4 6*s.* 8*d.*, per rate	21	13	4
Remaines due to John Saxon from the Parish the sum of	12	8	9½

(Page 231). Francis Derhams disburstm^ts^

Gave Tho Edwards to go to Bath . .	00	05	00
Expended the Kings Coronation day . .	00	05	00
Expended the Kings birthday and 29 May .	00	10	00
(Most of the account are duplicates of the last).			
total .	30	05	4½
Received by rate 5 Rates att £5 15*s.* 8¾*d.* per rate	28	18	7¾
Received of Old Churchwardens . .	00	15	00
Received of John Ceely for a seat . .	00	01	00
	29	14	7¾

(Page 232). Memorandum the 19 Sept^r^ 1722.

Mr. Thomas Saxon Bought the pew of Mr. John Hill of Sarah Hill his wife for the lives liveing upon y^e^ said pew for the price of one Pound the w^ch^ sume was paid accordingly to y^e^ above Sarah Hill and attested by

William Mead and David Rossiter.

(Page 235). The acc^t^ of Mr. Thomas Were and Christopher Handoll, 1718.

Christopher Handolls particular disburstments.

pd towards making writings ab^t^ y^e^ Chur: House	0	4	0
expended when we sett y^e^ Chur: House . .	0	1	6
expend^d^ when Rich^d^ Webber sett in Stocks .	0	1	0
going to Mr. Warrs to answer two warr^ts^ .	0	2	0
going to Mr. Pynsent ab^t^ Collard . . .	0	1	0
(A large number of field Catts and Dogs, etc.)			
total .	10	6	9½

(Page 237). Mr. Thomas Weare particular disburstmᵗˢ are chiefly a duplicate.

my part to Thoˢ Rowsell for setting up the Butterice	2	0	0
my part to a beire Cloth	0	19	1½
for Gold bread and silk	0	0	10½
for making the Cloth	0	1	0
pd Edward Verrior making boxes to collect briefs	0	1	6
pd for 38 Hedgdogs and one field Catt 6*s*. 8*d*. as by the following particulars			
total	9	17	5½

(Page 239). The accᵗ of Thos. Were and Christʳ Handoll for 1719.

Christopher Handolls particular disburstmᵗˢ

Beer to the Plumer and Carpentʳ whilst about ye work	0	6	6
gave them in Beer when they shutt the Clapper of yᵉ great Bell	0	1	0
pd going to see the Widd: (Widow) Gad	0	0	6
pd my part toward yᵉ Iron Bar to keep up the Shutt	0	6	0
Expendᵈ on yᵉ 28 May yᵉ Kings Birth day	0	3	0
total	9	0	7

(Page 241). Thoˢ Weres particular disburstments.

Expend when we putt yᵉ papers in the chest in order and entering them all into yᵉ Church Book	0	2	0
(A large number of vermin in each account).			
total	11	2	0

(Page 245). The account of Henry Foster and Edward Samme, 1720.

Henry Fosters particular disburstmᵗˢ

pd for a Book about yᵉ Arians	0	1	0

The houses of convocation about this time censured a Mr. Whiston, a mathematical professor of Cambridge, for advancing opinions favouring Arianism or Unitarianism, and denying the divinity of Christ, and he was expelled the university.

This item appears in each account, and the others are nearly the same.

	£	s	d
(total of each about) .	20	0	0

(Page 249). Memorandum this July 17th, 1721.
We whose names are sett to this account will not allow that there shall be any more spent on the fifth day of Novembr than 20*s*. and on all other ringing days but 10*s*. and not to give any pasingers any money for time to come.

(Page 254). The account of Malachi Stroud and John Facy, 1721.
Malachi Strouds particular disburstments.

A hedgdog to myself			2
Jn° Northam for shutting roaps . . .			6
pd Jn° Curry for taking a bitch fox . .		1	0
pd for a Book of proclamation on the eighth of December		2	0
the Decoy man for field catts and stoats . .		1	4
total .	9	3	2½

(Page 256). John Facys particular disburstmts
pd Thos Saxon 23 hedgdogs . . . 3 10
(and a large number of other persons, the rest a duplicate of the above).

total .	10	10	9

The following is the last account in the book.

(Page 259). The account of Thos. Were and William Mead Ch. Ws. for year 1772.
Mr. Were's particular disbts

Spent at several times about Saxon's notes and wn his bond was given . . .		2	0
for a summons for persons keeping disorderly ale housen		2	0
paid the ringers on ringing days . . .	2	1	6
pd Hugh Hawker and Robt Vincent abt the Paviour	2	18	7
About 35 hedghogs (dogs, hedgdogs).			
paid abt the sundial and Iron gare, etc. . .		2	9
parish meeting		5	0
Clarks wages my pt	1	14	0
pd on acct of Wm. Fosters arrest wch is put on his bond		10	10

For Wine at Whitsunday		5	10
Mr Weres whole disburst^{ts} am^{ts} to . .	18	11	2½
Allowances crav^{d} by him		7	
total disb^{ts} and allowances . . .	18	18	2½
Rec^{d} by 4 rates at £5 15 9¼ . . .	23	3	2
Mr. Were is d^{e} to ye Parish . . .	4	4	11½

Anno 1772.

Will^{m} Mead's particular disburstments.			
paid Hugh Hawker and Vincent ab^{t} ye Paviour .	4	5	9
in beer when ab^{t} the work . . .		4	0
the stones for the steps and other stones two load		10	0
pd part of the masons bill	2	15	2
in beer alow^{d} them		8	0
Gave the Ringers in beer this year . .	1	2	6
Expend^{d} on a thanksgiving day by ye order of Mr. Preue		10	0
pd for a prayer book to Mr. Preue for ye same day		2	0
paid for bread and wine at Xmas, Easter and Whitsunday		19	6
pd Hospital money		8	8
Expend^{d} w^{n} the bonds was given . . .		2	6
Exp^{d} at Taunton ab^{t} two sev^{ll} times meeting Mortimour argent ab^{t} y^{e} old bonds lost .		2	6
Keeping the Account		10	0
Labour to Mr. Calbreath and self ab^{t} drawing out of the Church book to know in whose time the sev^{ll} sumes of money was lost . .		7	6
About 40 "Catts," "dogs," and stoats.			
Exp^{d} on Crownation day		2	6

1723.

pd Goal and Mar: Seamoney to Wm. Pavi .		4	0
pd Clarks wages and surpulis . . .	1	14	0
his disburstments .	25	0	7
allowances . .		16	1
	25	16	8
Rec^{d} by 4 Rates at £4 13*s*. 8*d*. per rate . .	18	14	8
Ball Due to Wm Mead . .	7	2	0
of w^{h} Mr. Were is to pay	4	4	11½
To Ball y^{e} Parish is D	2	17	0½

out of which deduct 18/3½ money received of the Old Church Wardens		18	3½
Soe ye Ball is but	£1	18	9

3rd July, 1724. Bonds delivered to Richard Coggin and John Weaver Ch: Wardens for the year ensuing. 12 names are given, the total amount being £92 8*s*. 0*d*.

The interest money is also named as having been received.

Here is the end of this interesting and valuable book. Unfortunately no record of North Curry parish affairs, either ecclesiastical or parochial, has been preserved for the space of nearly one hundred years. In order to fill up this gap, and to give examples of parish management during an important period, the reader is referred to the records of Stoke St. Gregory and West Hatch, which both commence about this time (1703 and 1706 respectively), and are fairly complete, more particularly those of the former parish. From the fact of these parishes being ecclesiastically annexed to North Curry until a very recent period, there will be found many things of interest common to the whole.

The next North Curry book commences 1819. Extracts from these follow.

Book No. II.—(Church Accounts at one end Vestry Minutes at the other end). Church Accounts 1819 to 1875.

An Account of R. L. Long, one of the Churchwardens.

1820.			
Feb. 16.	Postage of Licence for Rev. Mr. Talman's non residence . . .		8
,, 23.	Postage of Proclamation . .		2
,, 28.	Perriter for Do. and forms of Prayer	7	6
March 8.	ditto ditto	2	6
from June 22d 1819 to April 3d 1820 55 Doz. and 8 Sparrows at 3*d*. per Doz. . .		13	11

Mr. Faun's Acct being the other Ch: Warden 1 Hedghog 20 doz. and 5 sparrows . .		5	6½
	22	5	3½
May 6. Pointing windows and tolling the bell on the Death of Rev. Mr. Talman .		5	0
Aug. 6. Bass Viol Bridge . . .		1	6
Sept. 29. Rev. Mr. Halliday (Curate) for copying the Register two years . . .	2	2	0
1821. Jan. 24. Postage of Rev. W. K. Coker's Licence for non-residence . . .			8
May 17. Repairing Clarionet . . .		7	6
From March 21 to July 7, 131 doz. and one Sparrows at 3d. per doz. . . .	1	12	9½
Oct. 19. Rev. H. P. Gale, Curate, for parchment and copying the Register 1 year .	1	1	0
Binding the Church Bible . . .	1	8	0
Carriage of Do. to and from Taunton . .		5	0
1822. Tolling the Bell for the Queen . (Queen Caroline wife of George IV.)		2	6
1823. Mr. Palmer for new Bell ropes . .	5	2	0
Dec. 14. Robt. Wallbutton for repairing Bridge in North Mead . . .		9	0
At end of account of Mr. R. H. Scott for the reversion of his Pews	4	6	
of Miss Mary Kewer for Do. .	1	0	

6th July, 1824. These accounts were seen and verified on the oath of Robert Ludwell Long and Jas. Faun the Ch Ws. and saving and except as to the amount for the reversion of one of the Pews in the Church granted to Mr. Robert Hooper Scott which appears to have been illegally granted and the consideration sum to be returned to Mr. Scott and which is not allowed.

Henry Gould, Official.

This refers to the following entry of the sale of seats at the other end of the book.

1823, Nov. 25. Mr. R. H. Scott bought of Rt. L. Long and James Faun Ch. Ws. of the P. of N. C. a Pew by the Belfry late Henry Hoopers for the lives of the said R. H. Scott, Mary Scott, Sarah Gould, Avice Scott, and John Scott Gould, for the sum of two shillings and sixpence.

Rt. L. Long,
Jas Faun.

Also the 5d Mr. R. H Scott bought . . . . . a Pew adjoining the East Wall and W. D. Fosters Pew in the Belfry for the same lives as above for the sum of one shilling.

Rt. L. Long.
Jas. Faun.

Also the sd etc. . . . a Pew in the North Transept and adjoining John Bucknole's seat for the same lives as above for the sum of one shilling.

Rt. L. Long.
Jas. Faun.

That relating to Miss Mary Kewer is as follows:

1822, Nov. 16. Miss Mary Kewer bought of Rt. L. Long and James Faun Ch. Ws. of P. of N. C. the first Pew on the left hand in the South aisle leading from the front door to the Pulpit for the lives of the said Mary Kewer, Elizabeth Andrews her sister, Ann Long, Robt. Perratt, and Francis Kewer, for the sum of one shilling.

Rt. L. Long.
Jas. Faun.

It does not appear that the latter was considered illegal. It will be seen that the practice of sale of Pews has been carried on up to a very recent period.

1824, Dec. 31. Rd Foster for a gallon of cider when the Vane was put up . . .		1	4
1825, June 21. Pd for repairing Bass Viol and Bow		3	
Postage of letter			9½
1827. Tolling the Bell for the Duke of York's Death and funeral (Jany. 5) . .		5	
1828. Mr. Bishop for two hundred advertisements to discover who broke open the church		8	6
John Bagg 3 days work about Ch. Path .		1	6
Isaac Collard 1 day do. .			6
Philip Vile 8 days do. .		8	0
Mr. Poole for Clarionet Reeds and Instruction book	3	11	0
William Edwards for Bass Viol strings .		8	3
Do. for attending the Confirmation .		5	0
1829. pd Mr. Howse the other Ch Warden for 349 Dozen of Sparrows at 3*d*. per doz.	4	7	3
1830, July 9th. Apparitor for 3 Proclamations on the proclaiming King William the 4th and Queen Adelaide and for altering the Liturgy, etc.		7	6
1831, Jan. 7th. Form of Prayer . .		2	6
Apl. 14. Violencella Strings, etc. . .		10	1
Sextons tolling the bell for the Lt. King George 4th (25 June, 1830) . .		5	0
Sept. 8th. The Ringers being the Coronation day of King William ye 4th and Queen Adelaide	1	0	0

1832, Feb. Form of Prayer agst the Cholera .		2	6
March 9th. Form of Prayer for the Fast day		2	6
Nov. 25. Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving for having had a bountiful Harvest .		2	6
1833. Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving for not being afflicted with the Disease called Cholera		2	6
June 21. Journey to Ham Hill and expenses to bespeak the stone, etc., for Bellfry doorway		5	
Journey to Ham Hill with four Horses and waggon and 3 Turnpikes . . .	1	10	0
1834, Jan. 8. Mr. Marriott for notice to Builders for the repair of North Curry Church in the "Taunton Courier" .		11	6
June 10. Mr. Jos. Mason for fitting up the Communion	17	10	0
Messrs. Bartlett and Stensel for painting the Pulpit and Communion Back and Rails .	14	11	0
Oct. 8. P^{d} Mr. Parfitt for attending from Wells at the visitation this day held here		10	0
July 2. Paid Thomas Trumps bill for the new West Door and fixin the same . .	6	13	9
Oct 6. P^{d} Mr. James Crease's Bill for plumbing and glazing	38	19	9
,, 7. P^{d} Rev^{d} W. K. Coker for copying the Register and Parchments. 8 years .	8	8	0
1837, Jan. 21. Paid Wm. Laurence Bill for Carpenters' work and Timber for repairing the roof of South aisle being broke in by the falling of the parafet wall of y^{e} Church	4	7	5
Sept. 27. Paid James Edwards for tolling the bell for the Death and funeral of King William 4th		5	0
1838. Paid Joseph Staples bill for repairing the Gothic ornamental stone work on the Church with new and old stone labour and carriage	36	0	0
Aug. 11. P^{d} Joseph Staples bill for Ham Hill stone for coping the walls around the ch. yard and carriage	36	10	0
1840, Dec. 3. Paid for Proclamation and form of Prayer for the safe delivery of the Queen and the happy birth of a Princess (Ps. Royal born Nov. 21) . . .		2	6
1841, Nov. 17. P^{d} for Proclamation and form of Prayer for the safe delivery of the Queen and the happy birth of a Prince (P. of Wales born Nov. 9)		2	6
Dec. Paid for Proclamation for to pray for the Prince of Wales		2	6

1843, May. Paid for a Prayer for the safe delivery of the Queen of a second Daughter (Ps. Alice born Apl. 25) . . .		2	6
1844. Paid for proclamation and form of Prayer for the safe delivery of the Queen and the happy birth of 2d Prince (P. Alfred b Aug. 6)		2	6
1845, April 26th Paid Mr. W. C. Cox of Taunton for an Iron safety chest for to keep the Register the one we had in use not large enough so there is two chestes now of Iron belong to the Parish . . .	6	10	0
1846, Feb. 9. Paid Mr Fredk May of Taunton for 2 new Church Prayer Books . .	3	12	0
Paid for ribbon to put in the Prayer book .			9
Paid Joseph Staples bill for Ham Stone shaft for pulpit £2 15. Carriage to Curry 7s Man 4 days fixing and Iron Bar 3s, 12/ .	3	14	0
1846, April 16. Paid for a form of Prayer for the victories over the Sikhs by the East India Army near the Sutledge . .	0	2	6
Oct. 5th Paid for a Prayer against famine .		5	0
1847. Balance in the late Mr. Goulds hands	£16	9	2¾

Paid by Mrs. Sophia Gould.

(During the long period of Mr. Gould's churchwardenship the Accounts are most beautifully and carefully kept).

1846. Mr. Fosters account.			
Dec. 30. Paid Messr Newberry and Blake undertakers for the loan of cloth and for putting up same on the occasion of the Funeral of the late John Scott Gould Esq. late Ch. Wn. of this Parish . .	5	10	0
1848. Paid for mats for the Sunday School children in the chancel . . .		13	6
1849. Paid Mr. Stevens for Font Cover (the present font cover)	4	10	0
1856, May 29. pd for ringing at the celebration of the peace (Crimea) . . .		10	0
1858. pd Ringers for ringing at the Marriage of the Princess Royal . . .		7	6
pd Fuzzy for preventing the Rooks building in Church Yard		6	0
(Fuzzy was an old Waterloo man).			
1860, Mar. 30. Pd Mr. Davis for repairing the Pew in front of the Reading Desk and removing the Clerk's Desk the Revd W. G. Gibson having presented the Parish with a new Reading Desk	5	12	0
Sept. 4. pd Mr. Brinson a bill for pavements from South door to the chancel door .	4	5	0
(Received of Mr. Jones for the rent of a Pew 10/)			

1861, Mar. 27. p[d] for tolling the bell at the Funeral of the Duchess of Kent . .					5	0
Dec. 31. p[d] for tolling the bell at the Death and Burial of the late Prince Consort .					7	6
1866. To amount of Rate made on the 22[d] day of June 1869 at 1½ in the £ . . .				69	5	11
Sums not collected.						
Amount legally discharged .	£1	2	8½			
Mr. Phocion Foster's rate .	1	5	7½			
Mr. Read's Rate . . .		7	0½			
Small sums uncollected . .	1	3	10½			
				3	19	3
Amount of rate received . .				65	6	8

(This was the time of the Law Suit when the two gentlemen above named refused to pay).

1875. It was resolved that a voluntary rate of 1[d] in the pound be made for Church expenses.

Book No. III. 1875 to 1897.

(The Voluntary rate proved unsuccessful).

1878. (Subscriptions now collected in lieu of Church Rates).

1883. The church bells were re-hung at a cost of £20.

1891. Repair of Ch Yard Walls . .	11	17	0	
Pavement and laying same to W. door .	8	10	0	
1893. Repairing roof of Porch . . .	11	14	0	

1897. Paid ringers for ringing the bells on June 22[nd] being the day kept as a General Holiday in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee reign . . . . .

Book No. II. 1819 to 1875 (End). Minutes of Vestry, etc.

1833, April 15th. A meeting "for inspecting Mr. Carver's plan and estimate for the new pewing and alterations and repairs of the church."

The Rev[d] W. K. Coker produced a list of subscriptions amounting to £300.

Resolved that the Ch. Ws. be directed to make the necessary repairs, etc., and a Committee appointed to assist, as follows:

Mr. J. S. Gould	N. Curry	Mr. C. Barrington	Knapp
,, C. H. Dare		,, Chas. Godfrey	
,, Saml. Hellard		,, Fras. Wake	Wrantage
,, Robt. Pocock		,, Wm. Godfrey	
,, H. J. W. Meade		,, Jos. Wood	Lillesdon
,, Robt. Marchant		,, Robt. Trent	
,, J. H. Foster, Newport.			

It is resolved that notice of the Committees' meeting shall be given in the Parish Church of not less than two clear days of such meeting.

April 24. At a full committee meeting Mr. Carver's plan was adopted with slight alteration.

May 2. It was resolved that Mr. Carver be offered 5 per cent. on the sum laid out, and 2½ per cent. on the works omitted: and tenders advertised for in the "Taunton Courier" and "Sherborne Mercury."

May 22. Tenders are opened, viz.:

Pollard and Son	£418		
John and Francis Davy	520	11	2
George Herniman	447		
Thomas Trump	360		
Samuel Hellard	595		
John W. Wainwright	555		

Mr. Trump's tender being the lowest, an additional specification is given him, which he engages to perform at £80. It is therefore accepted at a total of £440.

June 12th. It was moved that Mr. Carver be applied to for a design for a new Pulpit to be made *out of the Lillesdon Pew*, with estimate for the whole expense, handrail, steps, painting, etc.

The railing of the Communion Table is postponed until the new Pulpit is fixed, when it will be ascertained what materials are left out of the Lillesdon Pew.

July 17. Mr. Trump is directed to erect a Pulpit accordingly.

July 31. The question of ceiling the North Aisle was discussed, when it was carried that the ceiling be whitewashed similar to the chancel ceiling. The contractor wants money. Mr. Charles Holcombe Dare agrees to collect the subscriptions, and Mr. John Scott Gould to pay his £100 to begin.

Oct. 18. It was agreed that the expenses already incurred be ascertained, which were as follows:

Mr. Trump's contract for pewing	£440
Ditto. for extra work	60
Mason's account	20
Mr. Carver's demand about	40
	£560
Mr. Carver's estimate for fitting up the Communion	80
	£640

Amount of Subscriptions . .	£350
Tenpenny rate will amount ab^{t} .	300
	£650

1834, Jan. 10th. Committee called to consider the propriety of appointing the Pews.

It was resolved that all those persons having seats before the new pewing *in right of their dwelling houses*, shall first have seats again, but a seat shall first of all be assigned to the vicar.

Secondly. The residue, after the appropriation aforesaid, shall be allotted to such other persons, in respect of their dwelling houses and lands, according to the valuation in respect of amount of church rate. Also, that the pews be numbered with small figures in black paint.

(At all these meetings) John Scott Gould, Chairman.

1833, December 13. A meeting called to obtain a church rate of 10*d.* in £, was met by a motion "that this meeting be adjourned to this day nine months." A show of hands was in favour of the rate; a poll was demanded, when the rate was carried by a large majority.

1836, April 29. It was moved that all the arrears of church rates uncollected by the late Ch. Ws. be collected by their representatives, and that they are to account for all arrears. (Both Ch. Ws., Mr. Long and Mr. House, had died during their year of office). And that a rate of 5*d.* in the £ be granted to the new Ch. Ws.

An amendment, "That all the arrears be first collected by the representatives amounting to about £22."

The original motion was agreed to by a large majority.

J. H. Foster, Chairman.

1836, July 8. A meeting for representatives to appear. Various papers and books presented by Henry Pocock and Thomas House, but nothing concluded. Meeting adjourned.

July 14th. Another meeting held with a like result. Again adjourned.

July 19. Meeting further adjourned to

July 26, when an elaborate account was presented in the well known writing of the late Mr. I. P. Smith. Mr. Rd. Bridge being chairman.

Amount of rate granted 9 Oct., 1828, at 5d.	£164	2	2
Amount of rate granted 9 Sept., 1831, at 5d.	160	19	5
Ditto 13 Dec., 1833, at 10d. . . .	322	19	3
	£648	0	10½
Amount of expenditure by Book of R. L. Long	£348	12	11
Ditto by Mr. Wm. House . . .	210	16	5
Amount of arrears out of rate 13 Dec., 1833	22	0	0

Allowance out of rate for errors, unoccupied houses, etc.	28	12	2
Balance unaccounted for . . .	37	19	4
	£648	0	10½

The following resolution was passed: "It appears to this meeting that all due diligence hath been used by the Reps. of the late Ch. Ws. (who unfortunately both were deprived of life almost within the year during their office), and this meeting considers that the late Ch. Ws. might have omitted to enter certain sums paid by them in the Parish Account, as well as have omitted to collect the Church Rate from poor and other persons, and considering all the circumstances and the liberality of the late Ch. Ws. on the parish account, and not being able to show that the same came to their hands, we are disposed to forego the said sum stated as an unaccounted balance due to the Parish on that account, and we further consider that the parishioners are as much to blame for their neglect in not having the accounts regularly settled as the late Ch. Ws. themselves."

1860. Agreement. "Mr. Morris will only ask the consent of the Vicar for the Key to enter the Churchyard with a cart in dry weather and when he will undertake that no injury shall occur to the Churchyard, and this he would not do had he not built his coal house, etc. behind his house, which he would now have to remove at expense and inconvenience."

"A claim having been made by Mr. Morris for the Key of the Church Yard, the vicar and ch. ws. refused to accede to it, believing that it had only been allowed on sufferance and by the consent of the vicar, upon which Mr. Morris agreed to meet the vicar and ch. ws., and in their presence solemnly pledge his word to abide by the above proposition, and only to use the road to his back door with the consent of the vicar and at such times as it should not injure the Church Yard."

"The interview between the vicar and ch. ws. and Mr. Cuthbert Morris took place at the vicarage on Thursday, January 12th, 1860, when Mr. C. Morris made the above proposition, which was accepted."

W. G. Gibson, Vicar.

Philip Foster
Wm. Hurman } Churchwardens."

May 13. A meeting held "to consider a proposition to abolish certain customs observed at funerals, and to compensate the sexton for any loss that may accrue to him and apportioning him a fixed scale of fees to claim from relatives of deceased persons."

It was resolved that the sexton's fees should be as follows:

Pauper's grave	2	0	
For ordinary bell and grave	5	0	
For minute bell and grave	10	6	

Child's grave under 7 years 3 6
For raising the bell for non-parishioner . . 2 6
Do. for a parishioner who is about to be buried in another parish 2 6

Also that the present practice of the sexton or clerk applying for any refreshment or gratuity during the time of digging the grave, and also after the funeral, be discontinued.

The sexton's salary was fixed at £7 per annum, for which he was also to keep in good order the graves in the church yard and toll the bell ten minutes previously to vestry meetings.

1863. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. W. Hurman for the zealous discharge of his duties as churchwarden.

June 18th. A meeting "for inspecting accounts and making a rate." A very large and excited meeting. The following were present: Col. Molyneux, W. Barrett, Esq., Philip Foster, Capt. W. Barrett, H. P. Olivey, J. Read, J. Foster, J. Andrews, J. B. Hellard, Wm. Crease, J. Jones, John Southwood, C. Lockyer, W. Spearing, Cuthbert Morris, Robt. Barrington, Chas. Barrington, Thos. Jeanes, A. Hunt, W. Hurman, G. Coate, Phocion Foster, Ellis Hayman, I. P. Smith, C. M. Foster, Thos. Hembrow, G. Crease, J. H. Nicholls, T. Richardson, J. Coombes, J. Osborne, H. Newton, J. Long, G. Foster, J. Pester, J. Webber, J. Whittle, H. Foster, Thos. Parsons, R. Marchant, etc , etc., etc.

I. The accounts of the last two years were examined and passed.

II. The estimates for the ensuing year were submitted, and after erasing one item, were approved.

III. A rate of 1¼d. in £ was proposed.

Mr. Read then proposed the following amendment: "That the vestry requests the churchwardens to apply to the parishioners for subscriptions and adjourn for six weeks." The chairman declined to put this, being irrelevant. Mr. Read, after threatening that the rate would be illegal should he refuse to put it, handed in a second, "That the vestry request the churchwardens to apply to the parishioners who attend the church, and adjourn for six weeks." The chairman declined to put this for the same reason. Mr. Read then handed in a third amendment, "That the vestry declines to make any rate." This was seconded by Mr. Southwood, and on being put, eleven voted for it and thirty-seven voted for the original motion.

W. G. Gibson, Chairman.

Memo. "The above resolution was not carried out, as it was said that Mr. Read demanded a poll, which was not understood by the chairman." Consequently the churchwardens being desirous that the parishioners should have an opportunity of recording their votes, called another meeting for July 24th, which was very largely attended. An estimate of expenses was produced and a rate proposed of 1d. in the £. Mr. Read then moved the amendments as before,

which were all negatived by large majorities. The original motion was carried by 74 against 17. He then demanded a poll, which should be kept open for one week, which was negatived. It was then resolved that the poll remain open until five o'clock that day, and from nine until five on the following day.

On the poll being closed, the votes and their value were as follows:

For the rate.		Against the rate.	
No. of votes	value	No. of votes	value
119	214	28	56

Majority in favour of the rate, 158.

1864. Memorandum. "Two alms plates of walnut wood, lined with crimson velvet, were presented by Miss Mary Marchant to the parish church of North Curry, to be used therein for the collection of alms at the offertory, and on any other charitable occasions."

June 25, 1864. Memorandum. "An alms plate (same as above) presented by Philip Foster, Esqr., of Newport (for the same purpose). September 20, 1864."

1864, October 27. A meeting held for passing the churchwardens accounts, when Mr. Read again appears in opposition to various items, viz.: 8*s.* 6*d.* visitation fees, £1 expenses before magistrates, £1 for ringers, £2 for drawing the rate and surrogate's fees, and a final objection that of illegality, the accounts not being brought forward within one month of the election of the churchwardens. All of which items were carried by large majorities against him.

John Cornwall, Curate, Chairman

1866, Feb. 16. Meeting to ask the consent of the parishioners to sanction the erection of two stoves for heating the church. It was moved, "That the thanks of the parishioners be conveyed to Mr. Scott Gould for her liberal offer of stoves, which they gratefully accept."

R. L. Adams, Chairman.
(Curate-in-charge.)

1867. Capt. Barrett in accepting the office of churchwarden impressed upon the vestry the desirability of the late churchwardens taking upon themselves all responsibility of a law suit now pending, and against any responsibility being imposed on him.

Carter Hall, Vicar, Chairman.

The above reference to Capt. W. Barrett declining to take any responsibility in consequence of a lawsuit then pending, refers to the action against two ratepayers, Mr. John Read and Mr. Phocion Foster, and was the outcome of recent church rate disputes, these

two refusing to pay their rates, for which they were sued, and a lawsuit was carried to the ecclesiastical court. It ended by their being condemned in costs, and they were ultimately lodged in gaol for contempt of court. This suit is memorable as being, I believe, the last which took place before the abolition of church rates. Mr. Read had recently returned from America; he was a nephew of the late Mr. John Andrews, and amongst the few who were induced to join him was Mr. Phocion Foster, a farmer of Knapp. The lawsuit resulted in Mr. Foster's leaving the country for America, and Mr. Read soon after returned from whence he came.

Church rates were passed quietly for a few years after this, until they were abolished by statute.

1866. It was agreed at this meeting that the payment to the ringers for ringing on the 29th May and 5th Nov. shall be discontinued, but the churchwardens shall be at liberty, if they think fit, and the conduct of the ringers is satisfactory, to make a donation to them of £1 at Christmas.

North Curry Parish Book, 1823 to 1894.
North Curry Rate Book, 1823.

Drewe, John, or Conservators for the Locks at Ham	5	0	0
Stuckey, Esq., Coal Trade[1]	1		
,, Ham mills	2	3	4
Poor Rate made at 1*s.* 8*d.* in the pound amounted to	290	8	6

John Bobbett's account, being assistant Overseer of the Poor from Lady day, 1822, to Lady day, 1823.

Received with the Book	85	13	0½
Rec[d] for Bastardy	18	0	0
3 Rates allowed	873	3	0
	976	16	0½
Disbursted	886	16	7½
	£89	19	5
Overseer's Salary	40	0	0
	49	19	5

1. See Rating Trades, pp. 125, 126.

March 25, 1823.
John Bobbett.

Paid 13 Pay days	795	16	11½
His book since	66	1	9
	861	18	8½
Allowances, about 8 names	4	3	6
Mr. Marchant's Salary	20	0	0
Do. Wooden Leg		14	6
Total	24	18	0
Disbursted	861	18	7½
	886	16	7½

Taunton, 26 March, 1823.
Verified upon oath before us and allowed.
Webb. Stone.
Chs Anderdon.

Persons nominated 25th March, 1823, to be Overseers of the Poor for the year ensuing.

William Wescombe, William Payne } North Curry.
William Long, William House } Knapp.
William Goodland, Joseph Wood } Lillesdon.
Edward Trent, William Potter } Wrantage.

John Bobbett is to continue the Overseership for the year ensuing for the same salary, forty pounds per annum.

The following signatures were appended :

R. L. Long, Jas. Faun } Churchwardens.
Lawce Dare, Overseer.
R. H. Scott.
Willm. Long.
John Perratt.
William Goodland.
William House.
Arthur Bobbett.
R. Pocock.
Joseph Wood.
Willm. Payne.
James Clark.

It was consented and agreed on that Mr. Robert Marchant to take care of the Poor of the said Parrish in Surgery, in

Oculation, Physic, and Midwifery, for the year ensuing for sum of Twenty Pounds.

Robt Marchant, Surgeon.

Then follow the same signatures as above.

The next rate and expenditure is still higher.

Amount of rate, etc.		£1082	8 7
13 Pay days, etc. . .	916 17 9		
Overseer's and Doctor's Salaries	60	976	17 9
in overseer's hand . .		£105	10 10

1836, 25th March. At the usual vestry meeting for electing overseers, the notice includes "and for choosing Surveyors of the Highways," the elections are:

John Bobbett .	North Curry Tything.	
John Durham .	Knapp	do.
Samuel Talbut .	Wrantage	do.
James Clarke .	Lillesdon	do.
Philip Foster .	Newport Borough.	
William Hurman .	Broad Lane Hamlet.	

Similar elections are now made annually. From this date disappears the custom of each person at the vestry assenting and signing the book. The names are entered as being *present*, and the attendances are usually very good, evidencing some concern in parish business.

Isaac Smith states that he is 67 years of age. It is put to the vestry, the whole except three confirm his being a fit person. He is accordingly elected overseer for the Wrantage Tything.

1843, March 25. Notice of meeting "to consider the propriety of adopting the New Parish Survey Rate and for appointing two Overseers and two Surveyors of Highways for the whole Parish instead of Tithings as heretofore."

Meeting March 31st. Present, 34.

It was moved: "That the New Parish Poor's Rate be adopted."

Also moved that the Rate Book be divided into Tithings and officers appointed as usual.

This was carried by a large majority.

Chas. Holcombe Dare,
Chairman.

The same meeting continued.

Moved and carried "That the Hamlet of Broad Lane be united to the Tithing of North Curry as relates to Highways."

Also, "That the Boro' of Newport be united to the tithing of Wrantage."

Notwithstanding this resolution, at the meeting of the next and following years, Surveyors of Highways are elected for Broad Lane and Newport.

1847. In addition to the usual notice calling the meeting, is: "And notice is hereby given that a resolution will be proposed for the appointment of an assistant Overseer—to collect the Poor Rates and Highway Rates and also to superintend the repairs of the Highways in the respective Tithings with such salary as shall be agreed on."

It was moved "That the principle of appointing an assistant Overseer be adopted," and also moved "That the Poors Rates be collected as usual." The first motion was carried.

Duties—"To make and collect the Poor Rates, to attend the pay table with the Relieving Officer when required, to attend the Magistrates' Meetings in cases of examining Paupers, and orders of removal; and to perform the usual duties of the Overseers, to bring a responsible person to be bound for the due performance of the office."

It was moved "That the Salary be £30 a year," also "That it be £35."

The motion for £30 was carried.

Notice was given for tenders for the office, when there were seven applicants.

Mr. Henry M. Hunt was proposed, when an amendment was moved "That the meeting be adjourned sine die."

22 voted for the amendment and 39 for the motion. A scrutiny was demanded, and the meeting was adjourned for a fortnight, when there appeared for the Resolution, 74, for the amendment, 70.

Mr. Henry M. Hunt was then elected.

John C. Burnett, Vicar,
Chairman.

1849. It is again moved and carried unanimously that the Hamlet of Broad Lane be united to the Tything of North Curry, and that of the Borough of Newport to Wrantage, as far as relates to Highways.

This meeting was largely attended by outsiders, in consequence of the following notice, which was numerously signed by residents in the neighbouring Parishes, including Langport, Curry Rivel, Hambridge, etc.

"Application will be made for the Surveyor of Highways to repair the Public Highway at the lower end of West Sedgmoor, which has been neglected for some years, and in the event of the Surveyors not continuing to repair the said Highway as before, that measures will be taken to compel them to do so." It was resolved that this application be considered at a special vestry meeting to be called.

A notice is accordingly given for a meeting "for considering and determining whether the Parish will take upon itself the expense of repairing and keeping in repair a portion of road

lying out of the Parish at the bottom of Sedgmoor, which was awarded to the said Parish under the West Sedgmoor award." A very large meeting. It was moved "That the road be repaired by the Parish of North Curry, as 14 years ago." An amendment "That it be not repaired" was carried.

1851. First mention made of collectors of assessed Taxes. Two are elected for each Tithing.

1855, Jan. 12. A meeting called "to propose what course shall be adopted relative to a summons having been served on the Surveyor of Highways for Wrantage, requiring him to put a certain portion of drove or occupation road in repair, situate in Sedgmoor."

It was resolved that the Surveyor deny his liability, and if an indictment be preferred, it should be defended.

June 15. Another meeting to determine whether the Surveyor shall defend the Indictment obtained against the Wrantage Tithing on the information of William Brewer, at the last Taunton Assizes, for not repairing a certain foot way lying between Charles Dare's Wagon House at Higher Nithe farm and a certain arch over a Rhine adjoining John Webber's cottage.

It was resolved that the surveyor defend the action, and that the parish at large should bear any expenses.

1856, April 11th. "A meeting for considering as to the costs and expenses attending the defending the indictment which was tried at the last assizes, and defended in pursuance of an order of vestry." It was resolved that a rate of three-pence-three-farthings in the £ be made on the whole of the parish to defray the same.

1856, May 2nd. A meeting held "to consider what steps shall be adopted in the matter of a summons by John Weaver against James Temlett, Surveyor of Highways for last year for North Curry Tithing, including the Broadlane District, on account of there not having been any return made in writing of any successor as Surveyor of Highways for the Broad Lane district. And also the application of the Broad Lane district for the separation of it from the North Curry Tithing as to the rate and reparation of the roads." It was resolved that as Broad Lane hamlet was annexed March 26th, 1849, to North Curry Tithing, and one surveyor had been since appointed, That James Temlett should defend the summons.

1857. Surveyors of Highways are again elected for the hamlet of Broad Lane and for the borough of Newport.

1860, Oct. 4th. Tithing of Broad Lane. A meeting "to consider an application from Mr. Lawrence Dare to fill up a pond opposite the dwelling-house of Mr. Robt. Barrington, and allow him to take in for his own use a certain piece of waste land and wall adjoining his field called the Old Orchard."

It was agreed he be allowed to take in the said pond, etc., and put a wall on the present wall or foundation, and which pond and waste and also wall shall be held for his own use, on the understanding that the wall shall be hereafter kept in repair by the future owner of the said orchard.

1863, 25th March. Notice of meeting includes "election of Waywarden[1] under the new act." It was ascertained that the waywarden could not be elected until within seven days previous to the meeting of the new board, therefore another meeting, called for

April 8th, for that purpose, and Mr. Philip Foster was elected.

24th Aug. A meeting "for considering a request to stone the Drove, commencing in Haymoor, at Lawn Moor Farm, and ending at the archway in Curry Moor, near Streaky Lane."

It was moved that such road be stoned, also an amendment which was carried, that a counsel's opinion be taken as to the liability of the parish to stone such road, and Mr. C. M. Foster and Mr. E. Hayman were instructed to prepare and submit it to counsel.

Nov. 9th. Meeting to consider the opinion of counsel. It was proposed "that having heard the opinion, a committee be formed to raise subscriptions for defraying a portion at least of the necessary expense, and also for the purpose of communicating with Mr. T. Mullins and others, in order to obtain their consent to making the road through their lands instead of by Streaky Lane." A committee was formed.

Richard Leonard Adams, Chairman.

Mr. Morris, at an adjourned meeting, consented to (gratuitously) ascertain the quantity of land required, the most direct way to the turnpike road at Lyng, and also produce a tracing of the proposed road.

1868, November 13. Meeting "to consider a notice served on the waywarden by Mr. Lovibond, Bridgwater, Solicitor, requiring the Drove between West Lyng and North Curry should be stoned and put in repair forthwith, or that in default he was instructed to prefer a bill of indictment."

Mr. L.'s letter read describing the road as 2,848 yards in in length. It was moved, "That in preference to making the whole of the road as threatened with indictment, the vestry undertake to make a road according to the plans submitted to them for a certain distance on the present drove, and through lands belonging to Mr. Mullins and others, provided that sufficient subscriptions be received."

A committee was appointed to carry the above into effect. That subscriptions be forthwith received. Thanks were given to Messrs. Foster and Hayman for waiving legal charges for

1. See Waywardens, p. 293.

counsel's opinion, and to Mr. Morris for maps and plans, and to Capt Barrett and Mr. Marchant and others who had acted as deputation to Mr. Mullins.

Chris. R. Harrison, Chairman.

1869, Jan. 14. Another meeting held "for determining upon a proposed new line of road, etc., more direct and better adapted than that approved on 13 Nov., and for considering means for raising the necessary funds." It was resolved that the proposed new line be the one adopted; and also, with the consent of the Highway Board, a sum of £1000 be borrowed for making that portion of the road from North Curry to the Rhine adjoining the parish of Lyng, to be paid off in fifteen years.

April 9th. It was agreed to raise the road two feet with earth and one foot with stone throughout.

It was agreed to borrow a sum not exceeding £1500, to be paid off in twenty years.

Capt. Barrett reported that Mrs. Scott Gould had offered the required sum at 4½ per cent.

1870, June 16. It was agreed to borrow a further sum of £400.

1879, Jan. 20. A meeting to consider a communication from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and final notice of a School Board issued by the Commissioners of Education.

Resolved "That a voluntary rate of 5d. in £ be collected at once, and returned unless three-fourths be collected." A Committee was formed, and it was resolved that Mr. Dinham of Taunton be asked to prepare plans for the proposed school at Wrantage.

March 25th. Meeting. "Also to consider an official notice received from the Burial Acts office with reference to Mr. P. H. Holland, being requested to report to the Secretary of State on North Curry Church Yard," "and also to consider a letter from the Bishop of the Diocese on the same subject."

With reference to the question of draining that portion of the Church Yard on the South side of the Church.

The Bishop's letter was as follows:

"I hear from the Rural Dean's report that the South wall of North Curry Church is saturated with moisture, owing to defective drainage. I beg to call your attention to this, and to request you to take steps to remedy this defect and prevent any further damage to your beautiful Church."

Sigd. Arthur Bath and Wells.

April 17. A meeting "for considering a proposal of the principal landowners to enable the schools to be carried on under the voluntary system."

The voluntary rate having failed to be collected, the Committee elected at the last meeting was declared to have ceased to exist. It was then resolved that the Landowners do pay 3 to 3½ per cent. on the gross estimated rental towards build-

ing the necessary school at Wrantage, provided the occupiers agree to support the same, and that a building Committee be formed.

A long list of signatures are appended of both owners and occupiers, agreeing to the above resolutions. The occupiers also agreeing to pay a rate of 2½d. in the £.

May 5th. Meeting "to consider a letter received by direction of Secretary of State, directing steps to be taken towards draining the South side of the Church Yard. It was resolved to write the burial acts department for the necessary order, so that a rate might be raised in the usual way, and a Committee was formed.

Extract from letter from Secretary of State: "That it is his intention to recommend to her Majesty in Council that for the purpose of preventing the Church Yard of North Curry from becoming or continuing dangerous or injurious to the Public Health, an order shall be made that the wet part be effectually drained so that water may not accumulate in any grave or vault."

Signd. A. T. O. Liddell.

This drainage was accomplished at a cost of £31 13s. 11d. and paid out of the Poor Rate.

1881, Oct. 27. A meeting "for considering the most effectual means of diverting and extending the present drains of the village, now so generally complained of as a noxious and offensive nuisance and dangerous to the Public Health." Adjourned to 4th Nov.

It was then resolved "That a large cesspit be put at the end of the present orchard drain where it now empties, Tithe map, No. 1700, thence in a diagonal line across Nos. 1672, 1671, and 1673, to another large cesspit to be made in a ditch between No. 1670, and from thence the overflow to run in the present drain adjoining the Public Road."

There are also long conditions respecting this drainage scheme made with the respective owners of land. This scheme in a few years proved ineffectual, and in the year —— another system was carried out by the purchase of the present Sewage Field in Haymoor.

1886, March 25. The question of the Wrantage Pound considered, and it was resolved to request the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to make over the Pound to the Parish for some other purpose.

1887, March 25. A letter from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners stating that they were prepared to hand over the Wrantage Pound for any purpose the Parish may think fit to use it for. It was resolved to hand it over to the School Committee to deal with as they saw fit.

It has since remained in their hands.

1886, March 26. It was resolved "That a minute be entered at this Vestry meeting recording the fact that £110 5 6 was subscribed by the Inhabitants of the Parish and distributed to the people as a feast to commemorate the Jubilee year of our most gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, and also that an Iron Lamp Post with an inscription was erected on the Village Green, and that a printed bill announcing the entertainment be deposited in the Vestry Chest."

It was also resolved "That although a fence had been placed from the Church gate to the path down Moor Lane, it must not be considered that the Parish thereby forfeit its claim to that portion next the cottages, and placing the same confers no further right of way than hitherto."

re Wrantage Pound. It was resolved "That if in future a School Board be formed, that the land the Pound stood on should still be considered the property of the Parish."

1890, March 25th. A Committee was appointed to take in hand the planting of trees, shrubs, etc., in the village shrubbery.

1894. Now came into operation the new Local Government Act.

Parish Vestry Book. 1834 to 1880.

1834. Notice of meeting for chosing a "Select Vestry," in pursuance of Act passed 59 Geo. 3, entitled "An Act to amend the Laws for the relief of the Poor."

Twenty substantial Householders or occupiers are elected and confirmed under seal by a magistrate. Signed M. Blake.

This "Select Vestry" meets fortnightly for relief purposes; and according to notice, monthly, "for the purpose of settling the monthly accounts, when "all are requested to attend." The attendance was generally limited to two or three.

July 4th. "The monthly disburstments amounting to £79 6*s.* 2*d.* has been examined at this meeting."

The following is a specimen of the relief given:

Decr. 12. Mary Edward one hundred of cole.

William Collier in sickness . . .	6
Sarah Andrews in sickness . . .	1 0

To pay Mr. Standerd for attendance on Jane Waggott £2 2 0
Wm. Smith for want of Labourer two loves of bread 11lb. ½ of bacon and one shilling
Henry Kewer for want of Labourer two loves of Bread.
Mark Edwards in sickness two Loves of Breade and one Pound of Bacon and bag of potatoes.
George Bradbeer for want of Labourer 4 loves of Bread two pound of Bacon and one bag ot potatoes.
Robert Duke to have a pair of shoes.
Anne Slade to have a sheet.
Sarah Hayman a bandag for her leg.
A hatt for John Adams.
A smock fork for Robt. Sweeting.
A pair of trowsers for Wm. Totterdell.
Hannah Keen's maid five yards of calico and five yards of cotton.
George Daw is givd a flenell shirt in Distress.
Elilabeth Adams a Pair of shoes and a pair of stockings and a sheft.

John Scott Gould (is usually)
Chairman.

And besides these casual cases the weekly pay list is inspected and ordered to be paid.

1835, Jan. 9. A meeting "for taking into consideration the propriety of paying the poor peoples house rents. "It has been considered and settled that no house rents is to be paid for the poor after Christmas last."

March 31. "The vestry agrees to rent of Anthony Pittard a cottage with two dwellings and gardens at Knapp, at 1/6 per week, for the use of the Poor."

Contract for medical attendance:

"I agree to attend the sick and hurt poor (including midwifery of the Parish of North Curry (except women in labour with illegitimate children) and all Paupers residing within six miles of my residence for the sum of Twenty-five pounds for the year ending at Lady-day, 1836, dated March 31, 1835.

Robert Marchant,
Surgeon."

"William Wescombe and James Faun answers the question made on Friday last by agreeing to continue assistant overseers under the like terms and regulations, namely £64 salary."

"Thomas Edwards agrees to be the Vestry Clark[1] under the like terms and conditions as his Father have hitherto namely six pounds per annum"

"The overseer to rent the cottage at Thorn of J. Hampson for the use of the Poor."

John Scott Gould,
Chairman.

1. See p. 306.

April 10th. A select vestry again chosen for the ensuing year and confirmed under seal by E. J. Halliday.

May 8th. Moved "That Elizabeth Ducke and Hannah Ducke be moved out of the workhouse within a week and go into the house belonging to the Parish in Knapp Lane unless they procure a dwelling for themselves."

"That John Foster be moved out of the workhouse before this day week, Mr. Dare offers to employ him on Monday morning at 4/- per week"

"Joseph Nash appears and request to continue the cottage in Sedgmoor until this day fortnight, when he will pay the rent at 1/6 per week."

Aug. 21. "The assistant overseer has this day reported that John Foster, Hannah Duke, and Elizabeth Duke positively refuse going out of the poorhouse, and states that they have declared in the poorhouse that they do not care for the order of the parish."

I well remember these two old women; they were usually called the "duchesses," and appear to have been paupers all their lives.

"Ordered that the Assistant Overseer prepare the situation in Knapp Lane forthwith, and apply to the magistrates for an authority to remove them by force, John Foster included."

Sept. 4th. "Mary Macey undertaken the office of a Governess in the Workhouse, and this is the account of the Beades and Beadsteads and Beade lining left in her care. (No. 1). In the Kitchin Chamber two beades and beadsteads one of them Sarah Fry brought there bead and beadstead. (No. 2). To beads and beadsteads one of them Ann Dowlin brought there.

(No. 3) one bead and beadstead.

(No. 4) one bead and beadstead.

(No. 5) four beads and beadsteads, Bolsters.

In the Parlour two beds and bedsteads.

In the Hall four beds and bedsteads.

Eight blankets, 25 Sheets, 11 Quilts.

Betty Duke and Hannah Duke was aloude to take from the workhouse to the Parish house in Knapp Lane with William Davise and family a bead and beadstead two blankets one sheet and one Quilt."

September 22nd. A general vestry meeting for nominating Surveyors of Highways. There are twelve persons present at the meeting. Ten persons are nominated for each of the tithings. Two for Newport and three for Knapp Lane."

Verily if good work consisted in the numbers elected to do it, it should have been done well.

1836, May 29. It was moved that the rating of Stock in

Trade[1] preparitory to the next Poor Rate to be made be considered and revised.

Crease, Sarah	.	2	6
Crease, John	.	10	0
Spearing, William	.	6	0
Bobbett, John, for Ham Mills	.	10	0
Dinham, William	.	2	6
Davidge, Thomas	.	5	0

Matthew Perrett, Chairman.

1836. There is now a general wind-up of the accounts of the overseers of the various tithings, preparatory to the new order of things caused by the establishment of the Poor Law Unions. And on August 12th a meeting is held "to consult and determine how and in what manner the quota for this parish is to be raised of the costs of purchasing the piece of land and erecting the new workhouse thereon for the Taunton Union." It was resolved "that the poor houses belonging to the parish be advertised and sold by public auction, and that the churchwardens and overseers be requested to carry the above into effect, and that the deficiency of the money wanted be raised by a rate."

"Form No. 6. Sale of Parish Property.

5 and 6 W. 4, c. 69.

Parish of North Curry. Taunton Union, County of Somerset. Premises.

All that freehold messuage or dwelling-house and garden situate in the said parish of North Curry, which premises have been used as a workhouse for nearly a century last past.

All that cottage situate in the said parish, now in the occupation of John Rook, a pauper, and his wife and family.

And also all that cottage situate in the said parish, and now in the occupation of William Davis, a pauper, his wife and family."

October 16. A meeting held for the consent of ratepayers to such sale.

It was resolved, "That this meeting do consent to the guardians of the poor of the said union selling the premises described, etc."

Sept. 7th. A meeting held "to consult about new maping and surveying the parish, to make the rates under the directions of the Poor Law Commissioners."

It was resolved "That all the land (except the lands under the North Curry and West Sedgmoor Inclosure Acts) be newly measured and map'd, and that a new valuation be made."

1838, March 9th. A meeting held for inspectiug the tenders. It was resolved "that Mr. Richard Hodge's tender

1. See p. 319.

be accepted, that is to measure the lands, to make a complete map, valuation, poor rate and book of reference at the following prices: Eightpence per acre for lands to be measured and fourpence for lands awarded, and not to be measured, and to furnish the parishioners with one or two copies of the map at 2*d*. per acre each." This was agreed to.

John H. Foster, Chairman.

1838 to 1843. Numerous entries occur in reference to applications to send persons to America and Canada, under powers conferred by the emigration acts to Boards of Guardians.

1843, March 31. John Murless applies for means for himself and family of six children to go to Canada, and £30 is granted. On 4th September, a meeting is held to receive the account of the same, when it appears that the sum of £30 allowed has been exceeded by £22 16*s*. 9*d*., making a total of £52 16*s*. 9*d*. paid towards the emigration of this family.

November 28. A meeting respecting the payment of Mr. Richard Hodges for surveying, etc. It was agreed to recommend the Board of Guardians to contract with him for the same for the sum of £254.

1847, February. A meeting "to consider what steps shall be taken relating to an indictment on Sedgmoor Drove." A letter from the clerk of the peace, that unless appearance is made at the next sessions at Wells, they will be liable to a fine of £50.

It was resolved "That a notice be given to the court that the highway under indictment will be made a good public highway forthwith."

May 7th. A meeting "for taking into consideration the most advisable plan for putting in proper repair the Road or Drove lying between Helland's Foss Bridge and the House of George Gannett, near Listock Lane, which was lately indicted and which at a Vestry meeting it was agreed should be put in repair and a plea of guilty entered and a fine of £100 imposed." It was agreed that Tenders be invited, stating price per ton per mile at which they will haul stone. A Committee formed.

June 4th. A meeting held to elect an assistant Surveyor to have the care of the work, when Mr. Wm. Nutt was chosen at a salary of £13.

1848, March 2nd. Broad Lane. "That as the Parishioners gave John Weaver as Surveyor last yeare leave to make a stone road in the middle part of the Highway as far as can be conveniently done during the summer. The Vestry now give the same Surveyor a further authority to stone the remainder part of the lane during the ensuing summer. Although the said lane will be from this time forthwith in good repair the Vestry desire the Surveyor to stone the remainder

part between this and midsummer next, although it is not required before next winter."

1853, March 18. Meeting "to take into consideration the making of a new Road leading from the Newport Road to Mr. John Hodder's in Sedgmoor." It was resolved that Mr. C. M. Foster, Solicitor, attend before the Magistrates to defend the case.

March 24. Meeting "to hear and consider the opinion of the Magistrates on the subject of the summons obtained by John Hodder for the non-repair of that part of the North Drove extending from the Road at Newport to that part of the newly-stoned road across the Moor allotted to the Tithing of Lillesdon." It was proposed "that a counsel's opinion be taken as to liability," and an amendment carried "That it be no more noticed until further proceedings are taken."

1857, May 29. "To consider notices which have been served on me respecting the repair of old Way and also a Road leading from the Turnpike into Sedgmoor droveway."

John Spiller,
Surveyor of the Tithing of Wrantage.

It was resolved "That the Drove called Old Way be repaired with stone," also "that in case the parish of Fivehead repaired the road leading from the Turnpike near what is called Dogs Kennell to the Sedgmoor Drove, that the Surveyor do repair the other part of the road out into the Turnpike near twelve acre field gate, next to a field No. 1929a on the Tithe map."

July 10th. A meeting "to consider the repair of a public Foot way leading from the Vicarage House to the upper part of Mr. Wescombe's premises, now occupied by Mr. Cook (now H. Denman) and to determine whether a good stone pavement shall be laid, provided a certain sum be guaranteed by subscription in aid of the Highway rate." The estimate was £65. It was resolved "that Mr. C. M. Foster having guaranteed £40, that the Surveyor, Mr. J. B. Hellard be authorized to lay the said pavement of Pibsbury Stone, 5ft. 2in. wide," For the resolution 9, against it 2.

1860, June 15. A meeting "respecting a summons obtained by Mr. James Meade for the non-repair of a Drove on the South side of lands of the said James Meade leading from the road at Newport to another road leading from Listoke to Helland, and being about one mile in length." Resolved "That the Surveyor employ a professional man to attend before the Magistrates and contend against the Drove being repaired as a Public Highway, but if the Bench determined on an order of indictment, then to consent to repair on the best terms possible rather than incur the costs with the uncertainty of being able successfully to contend against it."

1861, April 26th. A meeting "to consider extending the

pathway from Mr. Meade's to the West end of Mr. Osborne's House."

This was from the present Trevarrick House to the corner.

It was resolved "That it be paved with flags."

1867, November 18th. A meeting "to consider and determine in what way the money herebefore paid by the Dean and Chapter of Wells towards the Reeve's Feast shall in future be applied through the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. W. H. P. Gore Langton, Esqr., M.P., is expected to attend and inform the meeting of an interview he has had with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners." It was resolved "That this meeting having heard the statement made by Mr. Gore Langton with the letters read from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Charity Commissioners in reference to the 'Reeve's Feast' held from time immemorial in the Parish of North Curry, that the Reeve's Feast shall be considered a 'Charity' and shall be dealt with as such by the Charity Commissioners."

2. "That this meeting suggest that any Fund to be received under the above resolution shall be paid yearly in such proportions as may be determined by the Commissioners to the Clergyman and Churchwardens for the time being of the several Parishes of North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, and West Hatch, to be applied by them and the Guardians of the Poor of the above several Parishes for the benefit of the Poor of the said Parishes according to their discretion."

3. "That the thanks of the meeting be tendered to Mr. Gore Langton for the kind manner in which he had interested himself in advocating the claims of the Poor with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and they trust he will bring the matter to a successful issue."

Christr. R. Harrison,
Chairman.

Church Book (middle), 1875 to 1898.

1875, April 13. An adjourned meeting held to consider the subject of the proposed church restoration. It was reported by the vicar that he had seen, as requested, Sir Gilbert Scott in London, and had obtained the following approximate estimate.

Roofs, internal repairs and floors	£1385
Fittings of Oak	980
External repairs, excepting Tower	620
Tower externally	520
Vestry	135
Spire, if erected	300

It was agreed that a levy of 5*s.* in the £ be asked of owners, and 2*s.* in the £ of the tenants.

It was also agreed that a subscription list be opened, to which Major Barrett offered £500 in addition to his ratable assessment, and the vicar (Rev. C. R. Harrison inclusive of his assessment) £500.

1877, April 2. A meeting further to take into consideration the resolution passed at a former meeting for the purpose of raising funds for the restoration, when such resolution was rescinded. Adjourned to April 16th, when an amendment was carried that a voluntary subscription be entered into for the purpose.

The following were elected members of a committee: The Vicar (Rev. C. R. Harrison), and churchwardens, Messrs. P. Foster, J. B. Hellard, C. Lockyer, W. W. Lock, R. Coate, and W. Spearing.

1878. It was resolved that a voluntary subscription be opened for church expenses instead of rate, and a quarterly collection be made in church.

1880, May 25th. Meeting called "to take into consideration an important offer the vicar, Rev. R. C. L. Browne, had received in reference to church restoration." It was resolved "That all past resolutions be rescinded and the committee be dissolved." Major Barrett's letter to the vicar was read, offering on certain conditions the sum of £2,000, which offer was accepted. Other offers were also made. The restoration committee was elected as follows: P. Foster, Esq., H. Olivey, Esq., Mr. C. Lockyer, Mr. W. Lock as representative of H. P. Gore Langton, Esq., the ex-officio members being the vicar and churchwardens.

Numerous committee meetings are held, and on July 30th it was resolved to ask Mr. Oldred Scott to consider the restoration in accordance with the plans which had been furnished by the late Sir Gilbert Scott, slightly altered, limiting the sum to be expended to £3,000.

On Sept. 10th, Mr. O. Scott was selected as architect, and resolved that tenders be invited according to his plans and specifications.

Mr. Scott's estimate was £3,300.

Sept. 30. The following tenders were opened:

	Fabric.	Seating in Oak.	Total.	Deduction for Pitch Pine.
	£	£	£	£
Trask, of Ilminster .	2520	330	2850	45
Hawkins, Glastonbury .	2575	515 10	3091	137 10
Fast, Melton Mowbray .	2598	591	3189	230
Davis, Taunton . .	—	—	3350	—
Mullings, Devizes .	2964	594	3558	152 10
Merrick, Glastonbury	2994 17	593 17	3588	100
Luscombe, Exeter .	3000	650	3650	220
Blackmore, Hatch .	—	525	—	92
Spiller, Taunton . .	3090	550	3640	200

Oct. 18. It was resolved that Mr. Trask's tender of £2,850 be accepted, and also his supplementary contract of £300. Total £3,150.

Nov. 3. The restoration of the organ was considered and placed in the hands of Mr. Clark of Bath.

1881. This was not a unanimous election of churchwardens, and a poll was demanded on behalf of Mr. W. Spearing, but withdrawn, the show of hands being for Mr. C. Lockyer 28, for Mr. Spearing 21.

Here follows full accounts of the church restoration, the total cost, including that of repairing the organ, amounting to £4501 17*s.* 3*d.* There is also a full list of subscriptions, etc. These are too lengthy to give here. About £1000 was expended by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on the restoration of the chancel, and about the same amount on the stained glass windows.

1885. The chairman proposed the following: "That this vestry wish to express their regret at the loss the parish has sustained in the death of their most respected clerk, after serving that office for a quarter of a century, and died almost in his usual church work at the advanced age of 84 years." [John Priest.]

His widow is still alive aged 106.

May 26. Meeting in reference to the parish pound which is handed over by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the parish authorities.

June 2. Meeting about appointing a clerk and sexton. It was resolved not to appoint such officials, but to employ one man to undertake the duties in the church and churchyard usually performed by them.

August 12. G. Oates was appointed *Caretaker*, to be elected annually.

August 28. A meeting for the regulation of fees usually due to clerk and sexton, but now to be paid to the churchwardens to meet the salary of caretaker and other expenses. The following scale was agreed to:

For Graves.

No. 1.	For infants under one year	*Class A	.		7	6
	Do.	Do.	†Class B	.		10	6
No. 2.	For persons over 1 yr. and under 15	Class A			10	6
	Do.	Do.	Class B			15	0
No. 3.	For Adults	Class A	.	.	.	12	6
	Do.	Class B	.	.	.	1 1	0

* Class A shall refer to poor persons.

† Class B shall refer to persons in better position.

N.B.—By order of Privy Council, all graves are to be dug six feet deep.

Deeper graves will be charged 5*s.* per foot below this depth.

Brick graves will be charged for digging double that of ordinary graves.

For the minute bell for both classes A and B ten shillings.

Caretaker's fees for attendance on funerals: Class A 1*s.*, Class B 2*s.* 6*d.*, including ordinary bell.

Caretaker's fee for Weddings and Banns inclusive: Class A 1*s.*, Class B 5*s.*

Caretaker's fee for opening the church on any other occasion, 2*s.* 6*d.*

R. C. Lathom Browne, Chairman.

N.B.—The vicar's fees were submitted to the vestry, and were considered perfectly legitimate. It was suggested that they should be printed and placed in the vestry of the church, together with the table of fees above mentioned.

1887. Note.—"The planting, etc., of the churchyard was finished this year, the Jubilee of our Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria."

1890. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. C. Lockyer on his leaving the office of Churchwarden.

1892. Entry relating to a bequest from the late Mrs. Robbs, and extract from her will bequeathing the sum of £250, the interest to be given annually to the poor in clothing; and also £50, the interest of which is to be applied for keeping the churchyard in order.

1894. Entry of vote of thanks to Rev. Preb. W. E. Buller: "The members of this vestry meeting assembled 26th March, 1894, wish to record in the vestry book of this parish their thanks on behalf of the parishioners to the Rev. Preb. W. E. Buller, vicar, for his munificent gift of two additional bells in the tower, making a total of eight, and also for the restoration of the old Parish Cross, and consider these gifts as handsome additions to the restoration of the grand old church and churchyard."

1896. Entry relating to a bequest by the late Miss M. A. Crease, of £200, the interest to be given in coal in the first week in January in each year.

Section V.

Stoke St. Gregory.[1]

THIS is an extensive parish, adjoining North Curry on the North-East, and stretching away to the river Parrett, which it has for its North-East boundary. It has the river Tone on its North-West, the confluence of the two rivers being at Burrow Bridge.

The area is 3,967 acres, ratable value, £11,717, and the population in 1881 was 1,418.

It is intersected by the Yeovil branch of the Great Western Railway, and has a station at Athelney. The facilities for the transit of goods afforded by the rivers and rail have helped to develope a considerable trade in withies and manufactured withy goods, hay, and orchard produce, which are sent in large quantities to Wales and the Midlands.

Domesday records show that there was a *fishery*, and in the *Wells MSS.*, p. 184, mention is made of certain persons having taken the lord's fish, consisting of "salmon, peel, pike, lampreys, lamprons, eels, and flounders." Salmon still come some way up the Parrett, and are sometimes found at Burrow Bridge. The chief fish now found are roach, dace, and eels. There is a much esteemed delicacy caught in vast numbers in the spring, called "elvers," which are said to be the young of eels. The historian, Camden, in his *Britannia*, re-

1. The name "Stoke" is from the Anglo-Saxon "Stoc," a word occurring mostly in local names, either alone or in compounds. The meaning seems like that of *stow* to be *place*, in the first instance, perhaps, a place fenced in, and both words remain now only as names of places, as Stoke, Stowe, or as parts of such names as Basing*stoke* Tavi*stock*, Walthams*tow*.

STOKE ST. GREGORY CHURCH

fers to these in describing the river Avon, where they are also found: "The Avon, after it has pass'd by these rocks, is at last with a full channel discharg'd into the Severn sea, furnishing Bristol (at the Vernal Equinox or thereabouts) with a dish perhaps not to be met with but in this county, which they call elvers. Some time in the spring the river about Cainsham is yearly cover'd over and colour'd with millions of little eels scarce as big as a goose-quill, tho' some would have them a particular species. These, with small nets, they skim up in great numbers, and by a particular way of ordering them make them scoure off their skins. Being thus stripp'd and looking very white, they make them up into little cakes, which they fry and so eat them."

The following is the description given by Collinson: "This vill denominated from the designation of its church, is situated in the moors, westward of North Curry, being almost surrounded by Stanmoor on the north, West Sedgmoor on the south, and North Curry Moor and Haymoor on the west. On all these moors the tenants have a right of common. For driving the moors a reeve is appointed annually. The parish contains the following hamlets:

1. Meare Green, one mile north-west.
2. Woodhill Green, belonging to West Sedgmoro.
3. Currylode, corruptly called Curlwood Green, adjoining Stanmoor.
4. Moorlands.
5. Warmoor.
6. Steath on the river Parret.

None of these places occur in the Norman Survey, they having in early times been members of some adjoining manor, or perhaps depopulated by hostile depredations. The abbot of Athelney had possessions in Currylode soon after the conquest, as also in Steath, together with free commonage in Stathmoor, Saltmoor. Haymoor, and Currymoor. 7 Edward VI the demesnes and manor of Currylode were held by Thomas Reve and George Cotton, and by them alienated to Valentine Brown. Moorlands belonged to the Tilly family, and thence passed to the house of

Percival. The manor of Steath was part of the barony of the ancient Baron de Moels. The manor of Stoke St. Gregory is parcel of the possessions of the dean and chapter of Wells, who are also patrons of the benefice which is appendant to North Curry. The church is built in the form of a cross, and has at the west end[1] an octangular tower with a low spire and five bells. In the south transept are two monuments of stone inscribed: "Here lieth the body of Edward Courte of Lillesdon in this County, Esq. He departed this life October 26th, 1682."

"Here lieth the body of Alexander Court of the Parish of North Curry in this County, Gent., youngest Brother of the above named Edward Court, Sen., Esq., who died Aug. 10, 1705. Also the body of Margaret Court, one of the Daughters of the said Edward Court, Sen., who died at the city of Bath, July 21, 1710."

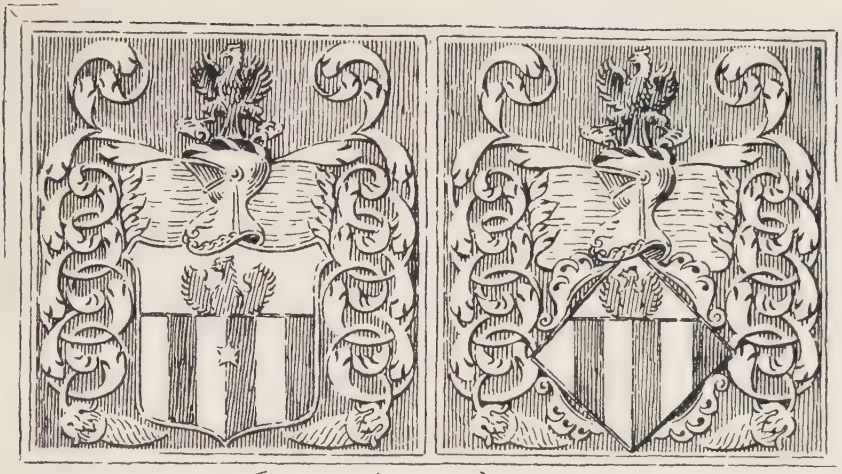
On the Court monument, together with armorial bearings, is inscribed the following quaint lines:

"O reader now prepare to die
Thy thread is almost spun
Live like this lady just for why
Her virtues did outshine the Sun
This Virgin Lady pure and chaste
Beneath doth sleeping lie
Apace her body now doth waste
Her soul is in the Heavens high."

The Domesday records value this parish as part of North Curry, and the two parishes, together with West Hatch, constitute the ancient hundred and manor of North Curry—these have been fully described. In the *Wells MSS.* frequent mention is made of "Stokes in North Cory," and to the present day a large portion of the parish continues to be called East Curry. The Rev. Preb. Coleman in an interesting paper in vol. xviii, 1872, Som. Archæological *Proceedings*, gives the following extract from an old register book:

"The scription in a window of our Parish Church

1. This is an error, should have been in the centre.



Arms of the Court family in
Stoke St. Gregory Church

Arms of the Court family in
Stoke St. Gregory Church

of Gregory Stoke is this—Will[s] Conqueror occisso Haraldo Regno potitus, istam ecclesiam in suis possessionibus.

"E. Pierce, Vicar, 1719."

The Church contains many points of interest. It consists of a chancel, nave with aisles, north and south transepts, a central octagonal tower with small spire and five bells. It is almost a duplicate of North Curry, but of smaller dimensions, but much of it is said to be of an older date. Mr. Buckle[1] assigns the tower to the twelfth century, also two windows in the south transept to the same period: the remainder he considers to belong to the fifteenth century. The west window is particularly fine. The church was restored by the vicar, the Rev. R. W. Moor, in 1844, when, fortunately, he preserved the old oak, which now is seen in the bench ends, pulpit, and the old reading desk; the latter is now converted into a vestry cupboard.

There is a mural tablet in the chancel "In memory of Richard Watson Moor, 47 years (1830-1877), incumbent of this parish, died Mar: 11, 1884, aged 80 years; also his wife and six sisters; erected in 1894 by Rev. Edmund Fowle, the son of one of the sisters."

A more recent restoration was effected in 1888, in reference to which the following appears on a tablet in the vestry. "This church was restored in the year 1887 and 1888, when the western arch in the north transept, which had been blocked up for 217 years, was reopened. Also a new oak roof put to the south transept. The old organ loft was taken away from the west end and the organ placed in the north transept. A new floor made to the ringers' loft. Heating apparatus fixed. Figures of the apostles placed in the niches of the tower. Vestry lengthened, and other improvements and repairs. H. F. S. Gurney, Vicar. Thos. Hembrow, Thos. T. House, Ch: Wardens."

A good clock was placed in the tower as a Jubilee Memorial in 1898.

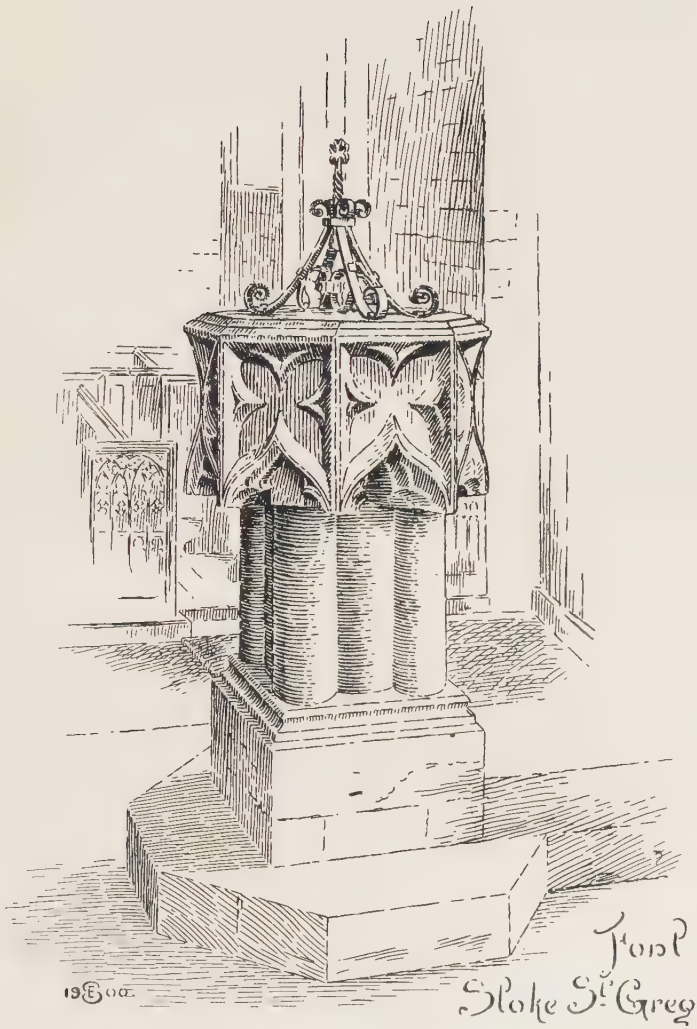
1. Som. Arch. *Proceedings*, vol. xliv.

On a stone now forming part of the pavement within the west door is a memorial to — Greenwood, Trin. Coll., Camb., 1692, aged 61, and Thomas Greenwood, gent., 1698, with armorial bearings; all much worn and indistinct. The arms of Montague appear on shields held by angels on the capitals of pillars of arch leading from south transept to aisle.

The Font.—This is interesting and peculiar, and is said by Mr. Buckle to be one of the most remarkable features of the church. The following is the description given by Mr. Harvey Pridham in his *Church Fonts of Somerset:*

"Stoke St. Gregory Font, Late Decorated, 1325-1377. Outside, an octagonal bowl on a stem, which may be described as a central circular column, having engaged shafts at four cardinal points. The base is square. The panelling of the bowls very singular; the variations are given in the detail book. The material is Ham stone. Inside bowl circular, the lead lining having been stripped out, its margin may be traced, cut $\frac{3}{8}$ inch deep, following the visible top moulding or chamfer shown in the elevation drawing within $\frac{3}{4}$ inch all the way. This means that though the bowl itself is circular, the chace cut for the lead is of octagonal form in plane. The sides are vertical, the plan flat, the inside diameter $21\frac{1}{4}$ inch, the depth $9\frac{3}{4}$ inch. Flat modern cover."

The Church Plate is good and some of it ancient. I extract the following from an inventory by the Revs. E. H. Bates and F. Hancock, given in the Somerset Archæological *Proceedings*, vol. xlvi, for 1900: "The Elizabethan cup is a good specimen of I. P.'s handiwork. It is parcel-gilt and 8in. high; the bowl is deep with two bands of ornament; the knob has hyphens, and the foot the egg-and-dart decoration; these portions and the extremities of the stem are gilt. Marks: 2 offic; date letter for 1573; I. P. The cover has disappeared. There is also a nice little salver with gadrooned rim, on three feet, 6in. across. Marks: 2 offic; date-letter for 1734; maker's mark,



Font
Stoke St. Gregory
Ch.

I. C. in plain oblong punch. Its weight is 6oz., 19dwt. The salver is inscribed: Stoke Saint Gregory, 1804. W. B., W. S., Churchwardens (William Brewer, William Sawtell). The centre of the salver is a shield bearing a two-headed eagle, a mullet in chief for difference (Speke); imp., two single fetter-locks in chief, and a double one in base (Anderton).

A cup, paten, salver and flagon of plated metal, "presented by Mrs. Sarah Gould of Moredon House, North Curry, 1844."

A large pewter tankard, somewhat the worse for wear.

The Pulpit is a very interesting piece of old carved wood work. The carvings represent figures of Time, Faith, Hope, and Charity, on which the symbols are strongly marked, and a fifth figure towards the east, the meaning of which is not so clear.

The carved bench ends are interesting. On the vestry cupboard, formerly the reading desk, are figures of women with oil lamps, representing the five wise virgins. It has on one shield borne by an angel the date 1595, and on another 1628.

The Stocks in the churchyard, under a fine yew tree, are very perfect.

The Registers date from 1561. I regret I have not been able to examine them, as they would doubtless have supplied many interesting items of information interpolated with the usual entries. These books are in the custody of the clergy. It is, however, a selfish policy to claim exclusive right over them. Most custodians are not averse to their inspection and transcription, as is now being done under the editorship of Messrs. Phillimore and Hayward in respect of marriages—but there are exceptions.

From an interesting paper by the Rev. Prebendary Coleman before referred to, I extract the following:

"In 1664, amongst other presentments by the churchwardens is: "Item. Wee p'sent that y^e^ minister hath not yet p'formed his office in christening the children because he hath two cures to serve."

"1664. Imp^ris Wee p'sent y^e Church Leads to be in some defect and out of reparacōn.

"Item. We p'sent wee have no white linnen cloth for the cōmunion table.

"Item. that wee have no booke of homilies.

"Item. that wee have no surplice.

"Item. that wee have no booke to write the names of strange preachers.

"Item. that wee have no Herse cloth for y^e buriall of y^e dead.

"Item. Wee p'sent Thomas Leaky and Emme his wife for incontinency before marriage, and ther of these hath been and is a cōmon fame in this the s^d Parish.

"Item. Wee p'sent Marvel Jent the wife of Christopher Jent for causing a strife between her neighbours and for that she is a raylor.

"Item. Wee p'sent Joseph Hancock for not paying his rates to the Church being four behind.

And numerous others for the same reason.

John Willicomb, Wm. Clements } Ch. Wardens.
Gilbert Bray, Sidesman."

From the same paper:

"Gregory Stoke Procession for viewing the bounds of the Parish was May 28^th and 29^th 1717 by cōmon guess 22 miles round.

Ezra Pierce, Vicar.
Thomas Hemborough, Ch. Wn."

Mr. Coleman also states that "as late as 1798 there was a Quakers' meeting house standing in the parish, all traces of which are gone; and there was ground which is named 'the Quakers' Burying Plott,' where at least twelve bodies are recorded to have been interred between A.D. 1689 and A.D. 1692." The parish books show rates are charged on this meeting house.

Slough House, in this parish, was formerly a place of some importance, and from its proportions and arrangements was evidently an Elizabethan Manor House. There are the remains of a moat, and an archway, now covered with ivy and very picturesque,

Slough Farm
Stoke St Gregory.

shows the old drawbridge entrance. The entrance porch has a beautiful facing of stone, in alternate courses, in square and triangular shapes in blue lias and Ham Hill stone, which has a very pleasing effect of colour. The hall has a fine oak ceiling, and the stone-work of arches and pillars about it indicate the handsome room of former days. Some portions of stone, decorated with gold and colour have been found, which are supposed to have formed part of an ancient oratory which formerly existed here. The Rev. Preb. Buller[1] says he found in "the register" that bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury, in January, 1337, gave two licences to John of Slough, of North Curry, to have divine service celebrated in his oratory at Slough for a year (S.R.S. IX, 315). The monument in North Curry Church to "Thom" or "John" atte Sloo and the Jack of Slough mentioned in the custom of the "reeve's feast," probably refer to this individual. By the conversion of the custom of the reeve's feast into a charity, Stoke now receives £7 a year. It had originally a considerable share of the feast and duties towards the lord in relation to the customs of the manor. Slough appears to have been from time to time in the possession of various owners "John," "Robert," and "Simon" de la Slo or atte Sloo, and others, are mentioned. In *Wells MSS.*, page 296. Sibella, daughter of Simon de la Slo, is named as niece of Margery de Stoke, A.D. 1247, and there also appears, "Release by Margery de Stokes, widow, of land at Meredon." This is witnessed by John de Aura, Ric. Tregoz, vicar of North Cory; Adam de Meredon; Robt. de Mereden; Rog. de la Slo., etc.

The Rev. E. H. Bates (Som. Arch. *Proceedings*, vol. xliv) says: "The original owners seem to have given place during the reign of Henry II to the family of Montague of Sutton Montes and Weston Bampfield. On the death of the head of the family, temp. Henry VIII, these two manors passed to three co-heiresses and their descendants; but Slough seems to have been settled at an earlier date on a younger son, and

1. Somerset Archæological *Proceedings*, vol xliv, page 36.

the arms of Montague appear on an Elizabethan tomb in the churchyard."[1]

Soon after 1600 it was in possession of the Courts, of Lillesdon Court, North Curry. Monuments to various members of that family appear in the church, which have been referred to. It has ever since been held with the Lillesdon Court estate, and the present owner is the Hon. H. P. Gore Langton.

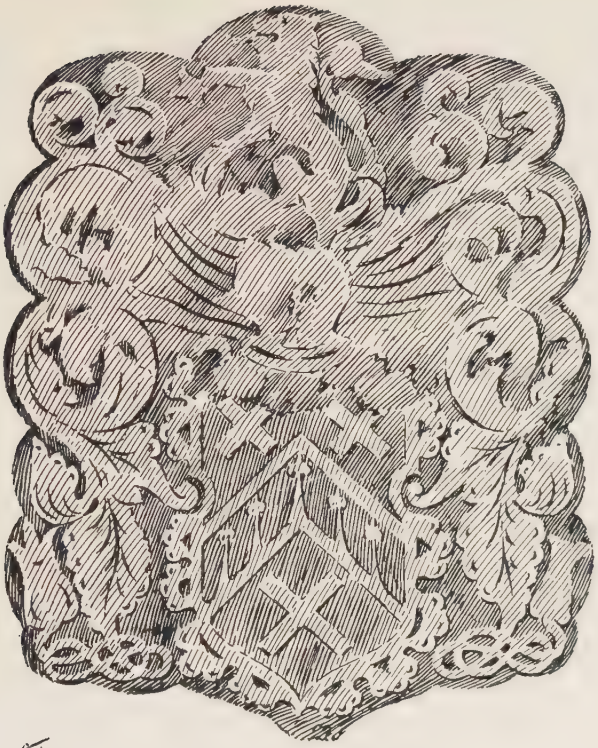
A great feature in this parish is the enormous amount of withies which are grown in the moors, and are a vast industry and the source of much of the well being of the inhabitants. These, and the large amount of hay produced from the moors, have contributed to raise this parish during the last thirty or forty years, from being by no means flourishing, to be now one of the most well-to-do in Somerset. Practically there are no poor people. The moors are very extensive. Their more effectual drainage, as in the case of North Curry, has much improved the health of the people, and rendered the frequent visitations of ague a thing of the past. Charms were frequently had recourse to for the cure of this ailment, one of which was to hang up the garter at night in an apple tree.

The following are extracts from the Stoke St. Gregory parish books, which are very complete and well preserved. The earliest begins A.D. 1703.

Parish Book No. I. Stoke St. Gregory. 1703 to 1744.

(On first leaf). On Sunday ye 10th of February 1739, ye Churchwardens and overseers of our Parish of Gregory Stoke spake of a Vestry meeting to be on Wednesday ye 13th of the same instant, concerning a workhouse for ye Poor of the same Then ye Ch. Ws. overseers with other inhabitants of ye sd Parish whose hands are hereunto subscribed did consent and agree at ye sd vestry meeting to have the Parish or Church

1. See under Lillesdon, p. 113.



Arms of the Greenwood family in
Stoke St. Gregory Ch

Arms on the Tomb of Montague
Stoke St. Gregory Ch.

House thoroughly repaired to or for a workhouse for the use of the poor of our sd Parish and to this agreement we have hereunto sett our hands the day of the Vestry meeting above said.

Signatures.

A *monthly* rate made for the Relief of the Poor . . . . to collect as many *months* as need doth require. 3 Jan., 1703.

(about 1½*d.* per acre).

Robert Crossman for three akers .	00	00	04½
Robert Crossman Sr for four akers .	00	00	06
Mr. Soute for two akers and Halfe .	00	00	04

Chief names: Mr. Tho. Bacon, the Parsonage; Geo. Musgrave, Richard Golly, Andrew Moore, Mrs. Ceeley, Saml. Walkey, John Barker, Robt. Hill per parsonage, Samm, Dr. Sillick, Mrs. Pearce, John Woodhouse, Henry Collins, John Saxon, Hucker, Alexander Court, Sir Edward Phillips, Samuel Powell, Henry Portman Seamer, Esq., The Quakers' Meeting House."

A True Account received and disbursted by John Whitehead for the relief of the poor of Gregory Stoke with the names of those that cannot pay their rates. (Each overseer has a separate account).

pd for twenty reed sheafes for John Gent .	00	05	00
for parchment for the bills	00	01	00
pd for a Travers and expenses at Wells Sessions concerning the presenting Slow lane .	01	05	10
Disburstments about the Church for the last yeare	05	04	04
Disbursted . .	34	12	04
Received . .	35	07	09

William Clarks Account.

Elia Beck for Iregare for Standmorre Bridge .	00	02	01
for timber and wages about the Bridge .	00	05	03
for coats and wastcoat for Gents apprentice .	00	11	11
for changes and aprons and stockins . .	00	07	02
for bodies, shews, a hatt and neck cloths .	00	07	00
	26	4	5

Simon Pococks account.

Disbursted in repairing ye church ye last year	05	00	02
Disbursted . .	21	13	11

Susannah Bulls account.

disbursted . .	22	19	11

An account of what cloth have been disbursted and the names of those that had it in this yeare.

To finners boy 3 yds ¼ at 2*s.* 4*d.* Thrid buttons	00	08	06
for aprons for Dumets children . .	00	01	6
and for 4 yds. ¾ at 2*s.* 2*d.* . . .	00	10	3½
and for 1 yd. ¼ at 11*d.* Thrid and bone .	00	02	03½

About a page and half of these entries, amounting to £15 7*s.* 6*d.*

Collected by six months pay and of the old overseers	135	12	9
Disbursted to the poor in this year . .	120	18	2
Remains due to the Parish . . .	014	14	07

Ezra Pierce, Vicar.

1704.

The widow Rossiter for Woodhill Mill .	00	01	03½
John Lockyer for two akers in West Field .	00	00	02
Mr. Saml. Powell for the mill . . .	00	01	04
Richard Ackland, Esq.	00	00	05
Ezra Pierce, Vicar	00	02	06
pd for the death of Grace Bragg . .	00	04	00
Expences in beere at her funerall and carrying her to the grave . . .	00	05	00
pd for shroude cloth and other expences concerning the funeral of Grace Bragg .	00	12	06
pd to the Minister of Middlezoy his fee for opening the ground to bury Grace Bragg	00	03	04
pd for the affidavit for Elizabeth Gent .	00	00	06
pd Will Greene for burying of Rachell Curry	00	02	06
pd for taking her out of the Well . .	00	01	00
pd for a man and horse to fetch the Corroner.	00	07	00
Expences upon the Corroner and Jury .	00	16	00
for carrying her to the grave . . .	00	02	02
for watching with her	00	01	0
The Corroner his fee	01	05	00
pd Mrs. Morrish for setting John Boones bones	00	05	00
pd Wm. Greene for burying Grace Braggs child and Elizabeth Gent . . .	00	03	06
pd for bringing Grace Braggs child from Middlezoy and affidavit . . .	00	02	06
pd for shroude and bread cheese, beer and fireing at the death of John Bragg .	00	05	00
pd for Twenty five days work to Thomas Wallter about Standmoore Bridge .	01	14	00
pd for pins about the Bridge . . .	00	02	00
pd for iregare about the Bridge . .	00	08	00
for two hundred and sixty feet of plank at three pence per foot . . .	03	05	00

pd for Councellors fee at Ivellchester (Ilchester) concerning the presenting of Slow lane	00	10	00
pd The Clerks fee	00	14	10
pd The jury	00	08	00
Expence at Sessions	00	05	00
Collected in this year . .	138	05	11
Disbursted . . .	137	08	04

1705. A monthly rate, to collect as many months as need doth require for five months.

Robert Crossman, Junr. for three akers .	00	01	10½
Robt. Crossman, Senr. for four akers . .	00	02	8½
Sout for Two akers and halfe . . .	00	01	08
Mr. Court for Slow	03	17	11
Alexander Court	00	19	02
Henry Portman Seamer, Esq. . .	00	06	08
Pd for making after David to ye parson .	00	00	06
pd for 5 yds of poldavy for James boby .	00	03	03
Laid out on the Church in 1704 . .	04	06	00
pd ye Crowners fees for ye child drowned at borrow	00	03	00
pd for ye badges[1] for ye poore people . .	00	05	06

1705. (A page and half of gifts of cloth, etc.).

Two yds of woole clothe and Casy or Carsy .	00	05	03¾
one pice of line cloth at 9½ per yd.			
for linen Buttons bone and threed for ye child Close that was kept by the Parrish .	00	08	05
for a pare of shews for Rothes boy . .	00	03	3
for hosen shews for ye poore children of ye Parrish	01	10	5
Received by rate of collection .	109	17	9
Disbursted . .	107	13	1½
pd Gregory Gent for schooling poor children	00	02	00
Expence at my Lord Hallys at 2 times .	00	02	00
Received for the Church aker . . .	01	10	00
pd Docter Powell for Chris : Goodwin .	00	05	00
pd Will Green for making ye grave for Christ Goodwin	00	01	00
pd for ye Scholling of Garlents boy . .	00	01	00
Received for ye Church House comon .	00	05	00

1. It was customary for each person in receipt of regular relief to wear a badge.

Received towards the repairing of Standmoores Bridge of the Overseers of Arller	1	4	2
pd for Straching out of James boby to Ann bone	00	01	00
pd to Samuell haide for ye keeping of James boby in his Death bed and ye bread and Cheas and bear at his buriall . .	00	06	06
pd Will Green for making his grave and carrying ye bear and making after David	00	02	00

A long list of woollen cloth, etc.

Ann Lea for hozen shews and a wastcott .		7	11
for Leas boy for shews, and hozen and hatt and Britches		5	9
pd for Hitchcocks children for hosen and shews and hatts and linen for changes .		17	3½

The 13 May, 1707.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed are agreed together that the Churchwardens for the futher shall not sett noe workmen about the repareinge of the Parish Church of Gregory Stoake above twenty shillings worth without the consent of (names given) or any fower of them wee doe alow every Churchwarden and overseer one shilling each every privitt sessions wee do allow fifteen shillings for the ringeng the fifth day of November and noe more wee will not alow any Bridge or Bridges to be repaired and putt into the poore account wee do not allow that the poore and church rates shall be putt together for the tyme to come. Wee doe alow at the making of the poor rate two shillings and sixpence and no more for expenses wee do allow the Churchwardens and overseers Ten shilling for keeping the accounts and makeing the rates yearly and noe more to these orders only wee doe putt our hands.

Marshall Bridgs and
about 18 other names.

A copy of the survey wh was in the old Poor Book, Ano 1675.

This survey and value of every mans particular estate hereafter mentioned lying within the Parish of Gregory Stoak in the County of Somt. was taken and made the twenty third day of June in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and seventy five by the agreement and consent of the Parishioners and subscribed by wee whose hands are hereunder written To be a leading value and rule upon every mans estate for the raising of any sume or sums of money which shall or may be raised being charged upon or required from the Parish aforesaid at any time or times hereafter. 1707. 6th January.

5 Mr. William Baron.
25 Widdow Mary Dibble.
4 Mr. Robert Chapman.
7 Roger Hembrow for his mothers estate.
14 Mr. George Balch.
36 Alexander Kinglake.
5 John Durburrow.
38 James Perry.
41 Mr. John Barker.
0 Mr. Wm. Bacon for Burrow Parsonage.
5 John Barrington de Lyng.
and others.

This is afterwards explained as an acre rate, *i.e.* 1*d.* per acre for meadow and ½*d.* for arable land.

1707. Rate made . . . To collect as many months as need doth require which is fower.

Mr. John Coorte, sen^{r}	03	02	04
Mr. Ackland, Esquire	00	01	08
Lady Philips	00	01	08
Sur Henry Portman, Esquire . . .	00	05	04
Rich. Acland, Esq. Late Courts . . .	00	03	00
	88	03	00

Disbursements.

paid Jane Wite towarde the quering (curing) of the widd Finers childs head of the Crufe (scurf)	0	02	06
pd Sarah Leakey for the quering of a poor child's head of the crufe . . .	0	02	06
paid ye Dockter for things to cure ye eitch .	0	02	00
shuse and britches for Dumets boy . .	00	03	2
Ashrod (? a shroud) for Edward Raw and macking his grave and bread and ringing ye bell	00	05	03

1708. George Hitchfield one Pair of Leather breeches 00 01 00
[and several others given]

1709. Esther Smeath and of curing ye Kings Evill 00 05 06
Edward Batt to carry him to London . . 00 03 00
The Lease fee 02 00 00

1710. Mary finner for her dafter in need . 00 03 00
for tending Elizabeth Guddereg in childbed . 00 01 06

1711. Memorandum. That the 21st Dec. 1711, the £20 which was given to the poor of the Parish of Gregory Stoke by Madame Marget Courtes will was fully bestowed in cloth-

ing, etc. as appears by the merchants bills and their receipts, etc., etc.

Bought of Wm. Bennett by Mr. Matthew Pyleman 129 yds. of Woollen Cloth at 21d per yd	11	7	3
Bought of Eliza Bindon 231 yds of Dowlas at 9d per yd	08	13	03

Witnessed by Wm. Parr, James Willmeth and others. } Ch. Wardens

1711. Disburst in this year	133	10	01½
Recd by collection of 6 months bill	132	12	7

1712. We whose hands are hereunto subscribed are agreed together that the twelve overseers mentioned on the other page shall stand overseers for the year ensuing they being the greatest payers to the poore that are of the Inhabitants of the said Parish, every one of them paying successively as they their stands on the last day in each month during the said year with all other disburstments which shall happen within their said months not charging the Parish with any expence. It is further agreed upon that if any or either of the said overseers doth happen to forbear coming to see the Poor paid on one or other of the pay days shall consent to pay one shilling for every default except in case of sickness, which forfeits are to defray the charges of such meetings and others on the Parish affairs which method we think fit to proceed in to prevent hirelings to the said office and extravagant expences.

pd for a shroud for Jno Fudge 3s and Bread and Water	00	04	00
pd. Jno Cope and Richard Leaky for riding out to summon ye Parishes about Stanmoore Bridge	00	13	04
pd Thomas Walter for repairing Stanmoore Bridge	1	18	0
Richard Gooding Do. Do.	1	8	0
Expended at Quarter Sessions in wenting about an order for rebuilding Stanmoore Bridge	1	0	0
pd Council to move the Court	00	10	00
pd for an order for the Parishes to meet about Stanmore Bridge and expended in waiting on the same by Tho Tuttiett and Jno Cope	00	16	08

Easter Monday April 6 1713 then present our overseers accounts were accepted by us whose names are hereunto subscribed.

Disburst in all	90	09	00
Recd by 4 months bill	88	18	

Easter Monday is always the day of meeting.

1713. for Doctering Mary Gents Legg . .	00	05	00
for horse hire to carry her to to ye Doctor .	00	01	06

Memorand. Mr. George Lockier paid to Thomas Collins Thirty shillings it being an agreement between the Churchwardens and overseers and ye said Mr. George Lockyer for excusing of himself an apprentice until such time as Honor Toogood shall accomplish ye age of twenty one years.

pd Joan Spiller for makeing 1 cap 1 apron and for cleansing Honer Towgood . .	00	01	0
1714. pd Geo Matteks towards ye Hospitall, etc.	00	03	03
pd Phill: Wagget towards ye Hospitall, etc. .	00	02	06
pd towards Stanmoore Bridge . . .	05	08	00
George Mattocke the County Bridge and Goal Money	00	14	00
Phillip Waggett ye County Bridge and Goal money	00	07	06
John Lockier towards repairing ye County Bridges and Goal	01	4	4½

This charge occurs in each account.

Tho Robins for keeping Sedgmoors Clize .	00	04	00
The Overseers disburstmts .	111	00	5½
Recd by Collection of 5 Months bill . .	111	00	5½
1715. Joane Powell in ned (need) . .	00	10	00
pd for the crownen of Too peopell . .	00	16	00
for Ale for ye Jury	00	00	08
for bliding Gilbert Gent . . .	00	01	00
for bread and Ches when Joan Young Lay in	00	01	00

The same entry for "crownin too peopell" in each overseers account.

1716. for a chese for Amey Smith 8¾lb .	00	01	09
for Ale for ye same	00	02	00
for 3 Loefs of Bread for ye same . .	00	01	06
Will: Coombe for making his cles . .	00	01	06
for a chese for Mary Smith 9lb. . .	00	01	10½
for Ale and a shroud and Bread for ye same .	00	06	10
for shroud and a Aughter davied Mary Smith	00	03	10
10 sheaves of Read	00	01	08
Willm Furze the Marshall and Jail money .	00	03	00
Tho: Collins ye Marshall and Jail money .	00	04	06

1717. Dr. Tyrling for D^{tring} on Deborah Bloden	00	10	00
Christ House for making a coat for James Gooding	00	01	06
Mary Parrat for making two shifts for the same	00	00	06
Dr. Compton for D^{tring} on Deborah Bloden	00	11	10
for the marriage of Ed Lea	00	01	00
1718. Hannah Knight cureing Jn^{o} Fudges scurfe head	00	05	00
pd for cureing Anstes Couches Legg	01	05	00
1719. Will: Clark for mowing ye River	00	04	10
Crave allowance for Curry Load Mill	00	02	00
Ed Lea Dr. Stoake and his wife in Travell	00	04	03
Ed Lea Sen^{r} in need, sickness, shroud and buriall	00	16	02
1720. Anne Smith in need and for cleansing her	00	08	04
pd repairing of Ringing Well councillors fees and expences	02	17	05
Mr. Pilemans fees aboue Ringing Well	01	03	06
ye tything man about repairing Ringing Well	00	12	04
1721. Mowing ye River	00	05	00
Cleansing Sedghmoors Clize	00	01	00
ye Repairing ye Highways at Ringing Well	01	00	00
1722. Anne Booby for dressing Jane Finniens Legg	00	07	06
Dr. Compton for cureing Janes Legg and her board and other expences at Langport	3	12	0
Expended about Jane Finnean in curing her Legg and her boarding at Langport	2	16	0

1723. We whose names are hereunto subscribed doe consent and agree to pay unto Thomas Gent sixteen shillings yearly on every Easter Munday for mowing ye River and attending to Sedgmoors Clize by y^{e} Overseers of ye Parish. Signed, etc.

pd for marrying and Licence of Charles King and expences on Charles King and Geo Rendoll	3	14	9
Mary Brown for Guarding Hess Lea	00	02	00
Geo Old his Guard on Charles King	00	17	00
1724. Paid to Hugh Hawker touching the Highway at or near Rock	00	10	00
towarde ye Treasury money	00	09	06
1725. Towards building a new Goal at Bedminster	00	12	08

Same entry in each overseer's account.

Expended in apprehending, Licence and marrying of Thomas Brauer . .	03	17	00
1726. Carrying Elizth Rendole to Sir Wm. Pinsent	00	02	02
for a nominacion Warrant for the superfines of the Highways	00	02	06
1728. Alowd for carrying ye Quakers Child to Fovant	0	18	0
(Other overseer has) paid for man and horse in carrying up Robt Days son to Fovant wth charges on the same . . .	0	18	0
paid and expendd in attending Robt Days child and settling him by order at Fovent	00	08	00
pd Anne Booby for cureing Edw Leas Knee .	00	10	06

Anne Booby appears as the doctress frequently.

(A page and half account of cloth both Lynen and Woollen given to the poore which was bought of Mr. Stuckey of Langport).

total .	18	06	00
1729. To the poor Good Friday . .	7	10	07
Hugh Hawker for mending Ringing Well .	1	00	00
Expended at a Vestry meeting . . .	00	05	00
pd Doct Compton towards cureing Sarah Pococks Leg and board at Langport .	3	00	00
An Account of cloth which hath been delivered by me Richard Peddle			
sum total .	30	18	11

Richard Peddle is shopkeeper as well as overseer.

Disbursted by the whole Overseers . .	189	06	09
recd in all by the whole overseers . .	207	01	01

(being a rate of 9 months).

1732. Docter White for cureing Jno Mannings Arm	1	01	0
Mrs. Sillivan for delivering Dorothy Crossman .	0	10	06
Expd on a Guard for Bernards wife when drowned	0	13	06
pd for ye crowning of Bernards wife . .	0	05	06
(The other overseer also has) for Dorothy Crossman to ye Wid Sillivants at her lying in at Child Bed	0	11	6
1733. Removing Fragrants out of ye Parish .	0	12	04
for an order at Langport about Stanmoor Bridge	0	12	0

Taking up an Indictment about ye same and other expences in ser: Taunton and West Hatch	0	15	06
Jn° Stokes mowing Bulload Rhine . .	0	1	06
pd ye Constable ye new Raise money . .	0	09	6
Goal and Hospital for East Curry . .	0	05	06
Goal and Hospital for Curry Load Tything .	0	06	06
Towards new Raise money on our Hundred .	1	05	0

1734. Jn° Bath for repairing Standmoore Bridge when in controvercie between us and Henry Chard and other expences in litting same for another Term of years . . .	2	01	0
Jn° Bath towards Standmore Bridge . .	3	18	6
pd and expended at 3 severall Quarter Sessions about indictments, orders, and severall other charges about Stanmoors Bridge . .	4	00	2
Wm Brewer throwing Standmoors Wall .	0	02	0
Charges in letting Stanmoor Bridge for another term	0	09	00
Councellors fees about Stanmoors Bridge .	1	01	00
E2pended in setting Stanmoor Bridge to Building	0	11	0

And many more entries of expenses relating to the same in each overseer's account.

1735. Rate made to collect 6 Rates.
Chief names: Andrew Moor, John Kinglake, Wm. Ling, Andrew Perry, Saml. Walkey, Lau Tuttiett, Fan Seamer, Esq. for ye Parsonage (this has been before Portman), Wm. Guidon, Dr. Bridges, Rich[d] Peddle, Deavinish, M[d] Court for Slow, Sir Rich How.

total .	132	03	2

1737. Charges on ye Guard and apprehending of Wm Clark for not maintaining his wife .	0	05	00

1738. (Vestry meeting signed by Robt. Westcott, minister, and others).

pd Mrs. Tratt for cureing Jane Tuckers breast	1	03	00

1739. Searching at Wells about y Church House	0	03	06
At a Vestry meeting about workhouse . .	0	11	00
Searching about y[e] lives of Church house .	0	2	00

At this time the church house was made into the workhouse. See entry on first page.

Cutting and drawing a Tree out of Stath River	0	2	0
Tho Crease glazing y[e] WorkHouse . .	1	17	9

1740. For 1000 of Brick and carriage .	0	19	0
towards lent of a boat to Geo Crossman .	0	2	6

Mr. John Weech abt Stanmoor Bridge .	5	0	0
Paid More to Mr. John Weech . . .	1	16	4
Mr. Weech towards law abt Stanmoor Bridge	12	16	4
Do. in law about Stanmoore Bridge . .	9	7	3¾

Entries relating to this appear in each account.

1741. for bakeing 11 Bushells of wheat for ye poor in ye workhouse of our Parish . 0 15 0

16 Apl. (note made by Justices). Confirmed and allowed by us as to the accounts relating to Mr. Peddle, Mr. Crossman and Mr. Lea only (to witt) Mr. Peddle to allow out of his account 5s Mr. Crossman 5s 1½d and Mr. Lea 3s 10½d to the succeeding officers, Mr. Tuttietts is not to be allowed there appearing severall overcharges and frauds.

Tho Hayward.
J. H. Halliday.

1741. April ye 30. Paid to ye Poor of Stoke by me James Sawtell, Overseer.

6 Bushells of Wheat	2	3	9
Bakeing same	0	3	0
72 lbs Beef	0	16	3
31½ lbs Cheese	0	7	11
Spoons and Brimstone	0	0	8
3 lbs Soap	0	1	5¼
1 lb of Tobacco	0	1	4
9 lbs Salt	0	0	8½
½ lb Suet	0	0	2¼
4½ lb Butter	0	1	7½
Ale and Cyder for ye Children in ye Small Pox (besides other articles) Moors 4½ Candles 4½d Thread 6d Starch and Filleting 4d Pinns ½	0	1	7
in all .	4	19	9

Victuals, Coffin, Shroud attendance and Burying Mary Bampfield . . .	1	2	2
Thos Tratt for a Brake for ye workhouse .	0	6	6
Cyder for Ann Ivey in Sickness . .	0	0	9
Shroud, Coffin and burying Ann Ivey . .	0	14	0
Paulina Baily cureing Moon's Wifes breast .	0	3	0
Warrant to remove people out of the Parish .	0	0	6
paid for 43 pounds of Bife and Doben . .	0	8	0
Paid Tho. Snow for ich Ointment . .	0	3	6
paid for 5 pecks Tormonts . . .	0	1	3
,, for a peck of pece	0	0	11
Will Powell for macking of Barnand close .	0	2	6
Will Powell for macking ye Workhouse close	0	3	6
paid Thomas Snow for cour the Eaich .	0	13	6
to Mary Oudman . . .	0	0	6
for Balm (? Barm)	0	0	2

2 Bushells of wheat	0	17	0
Curry Load common fine . . .	0	4	4
for a papscalot (? small saucepan) . .	0	0	3
for shueat for the childrens heads . .	0	0	1
one peneth of candels	0	0	1
for to bushels of tronaps . . .	0	2	0
for fortey fackets of oud	0	5	4
for teen sthich of hielm	0	1	8
Mary Mallick ½ Bushell of Green Pease .	0	0	10
Elizth Gotfrey attending ye Workhouse one month	0	4	0
John Garland for keeping of Bulload Lake .	0	7	0
Disbursted in all .	162	4	1½
Red 8 months rate . .	176	2	3

1 lb of Trackoll 2½ Broom Sturch pins pott 5¼

1742. Easter Monday Meeting . . . election of overseers. Signed by

Thos Farewell Curatus Perpetuus.
(Vicar of N. C.) and others.

At a vestry meeting held May ye 31, 1743 by the Churchwardens and Overseers with sum other of the Parishioners of our said Parish of Gregory Stoke do Agree and consent together that every officer of our sd Parish should be allowed in doing his office for the year the sum of £1 5s each as Witness our hands.

To Richd meen for redeem his working tools .	0	4	0
for 2½ of Bacon at 7d	0	1	5½
for 39 of Beiff at 2½d	0	8	1½
for carrying of John Barnard whome in the fets	0	01	6
8½ of Motton at 3d	0	2	1½
3 Bushells of wheat at 3/- . . .	0	9	0
1743. Mr. Whitehead for intendance upon Crossman Wench	0	04	0
takeing up of Crossman Wench and ye Gaurd and haveing her to Taunton for swear her Parish	0	18	1½
Wm. Powell for keeping of Armstrong and his wife and ye Guardsman two nights and and one day		10	2
the Guard 0 06 0 Mariage and expense of Armstrong and his wife . . .	2	10	6

At a Vestry Meeting held on the 16th January 1743 at the yousiall place by the Churchwardens and Overseers and some other of the Parishioners of our sd Parish of Gregory Stoke whose names are hereunder Written do consent and agree that the poor of our sd Parish should be payd every first Sunday in the month as the months comes Round. Also another Governor to be plased into the workhous at any time

when the officers and the rest of the Parishioners shall think proper. Likewise all the Old people that is not able subsist without the help of the Parish must come into the workhous or to Loue the s[d] pay and every officer to keep his one account after Easter and the account to be plased in the Book on the day of paying the poor and the accounts to be singed by Parishioners that is at the time of payment as and if any pasen do dye that is chargable to the Parish Leueing anything of Clothing or any small mater else shall not be given away without culling a vestry. Witness our hands etc.

Stoke St. Gregory. Parish Book No. II. 1779 to 1789.

A nomination Warrant and five Jubilycates .		6	6
24 stick of Hellem (bean haulm) at 3*d*. per stick		6	
13 stick and Half of Bean Hellem at 3*d*. .		3	4½
1783. 11 bushels of Wheat at 7/6 . .	4	2	6
96 lbs Beef at 3¼	1	6	0
13 Pecks of potatoes at 8*d*. . . .		8	8
1 lb Bacon			7
Paid to the Repeare of Rock Hill . .	7	10	0
1784. Paid Mrs. Grisstock for cureing of Mary Green's Leg the Half part . .	1	1	0
pd the Dockter (½ year) . . .	5		
pd for expences for George Newman and in money for taking of Noah Davis for a Base child	1	11	0
Wm. Brewer to the same . . .		10	6
expences pr men and horses the same .	1	13	10
per expence at Mr. Hammonds to North Curry pr eating and Liquor for the guard concerning Noah Davis	1	15	9
for Horss Iron concerning Noah Davis and for the Victuals keeping of the sd Noah Davis and the Guard two nights and one day	1	0	0
Expences at Sessions 5/- . . .		5	

1784. Rate made at *2d.* in the pound
13 Rates collected.

2d. Rate	13 Rates
£22 11 4¾	£290 8 1¾

Noah Davis, cont^{d}			
pr expences per 3 men going to Taunton for to have Noah Davis out of Jail . .		4	3
for expences for myself and horses and Journey to the same		2	6
for expences going to Taunton for three men concerning of having Noah Davis out of Jail		4	6
for my journey to the same . . .		2	6
for my journey to Langport to Mr. Bamfyeldes pr advice of having Noah Davis out of Jail		1	6
Mr. Bamfylde his bill		6	8
for the mare going to take Noah Davis . .		5	0
Expences at Taunton concerning Noah Davis .		2	10
for myself and Horse		1	6
Mr. Coggan pr Noah Davis which will appear by bill	1	6	10
Mr. Wilson for searching the Register . .		1	
pr Noah Davises examination . . .		2	
pr marrying of Noah Davis and Webber .		15	9
3 Journeys to Taunton conc^{g} Noah Davis and expense	1	2	10
2 Journeys pr 2 Horsess and 1 Journey pr 1 Horss to the same . . .		7	6
thread, pins, nills (? needles), starch bindings and a broom and worstard . . .		3	1
5 yds of Brin		5	0
4 Peck of Beans		1	4
½ lb Butter and ½ lb suiet dubbin . .			7
5 lbs of trackel at 3½ per lb . . .			
The Bullock's belly		1	6
½ a Chaltor of coal and carriage . . .		16	6

1785, March 20th.

Agreed with James House concerning the maintenance and washing, soap, candles and fireing and all necessary belonging to the s^{d} workhouse except all clothing—the s^{d} James House is to receive for all labour of all such that are able to work and the s^{d} James House is to receive for each person in the house six shillings for every Kalender month.

There appear to be about eighteen people in the house.

Stoke St. Gregory. Parish Book No. III. 1774 to 1820.

This book contains much about the binding out of apprentices.

A Vestry meeting, etc. . . . concerning the binding out of apprentices after the rate of £50 pr year and all Gentlemans estates that is over and above £50 pr year to answer accordingly to the same, and all other estates that is less than £50 per year to be joined together to make up £50 per year for an apprentice.

Then follow the owners who were compelled to take apprentices, arranged according to each £50 valuation.

February 14th, 1775. A survey of the Parish of S. St. Gregory drawn at the rate of *2d.* in the Pound being the custom of ye said Parish per all estates to take an apprentice pr £50 pr year.

per rate					
£2	18	0	Md Moor .	£348	0 0
0	0	4	Catfords .	002	0 0
			Moorland .	350	0 0
0	3	10½	Mr. Ed Brewer	23	5 0
0	3	5½	— Bridge .	20	15 0
0	1	0	Durburrows .	06	00 0
				50	00 0

Rate				
13	4	The Rev. Mr. Robt Wilson .	80	00 0
1	8	pr the Parsonage of Burrow .	10	00 0
1	5¾	John Fry pr Hancocks . .	8	17 6
0	3	Esq. Allen . . .	1	10
			100	7 6

(and so on for the whole parish).

At a Vestry meeting held 16 June, 1775, concerning Binding out of Apprentices, etc. We ye inhabitants of S. St. G. do consent to the same (or to put and place them out to such place as will be nominated hereunder).

Jonas Moon to Mr. Laurence Tuttiett, pr part of his *own estate*, which is pr £50 pr year. We whose names are hereunder written do consent and agree to the same.

Numerous entries of the same kind occur. Also similar to the following:

At a vestry meeting, etc., concerning standing of trial with William Sawtell being charged the Father of a Bastard child and not nesary providing for the same. We whose names are hereunder written do consent and agree to the above vestry.

(Also the following) At a vestry meeting, etc., concerning of such Lyn or Woollen Cloth to ye second poor as need shall require whose names are hereunder written do consent and agree to the same.

(Also) A Vestry meeting for binding apprentices, etc., and also, we do consent and agree to stand a trial with James House and Thomas Jeanes and John Comb for unlawfully bringing of Sarah Brown and her Base child pr on purpose to intrude of or upon our s[d] Parish of S. St. G., etc.

1777, March 31. At a vestry meeting, etc., we consent to give Mr. Bridge ten Pounds to take care of the poor of the Parish of S. St. Gregory who are relieved or chargeable to the s[d] Parish in Physick and Surgery, Midwife excepted.

1778, 14 Aug. Concerning paying for catching of polecatts and hedghogs and sparrows, etc., do agree to the same.

1780, 1st Sept. At a vestry meeting, etc. It being now reported to this meeting that Stanmoor Bridge a public Bridge lying in this Parish is now out of repair, and the same ought to be repaired by the Inhabitants of ten Parishes following, and by the proportions set against each of them, and that the sum of *eight pounds* is now necessary to be raised for the repair of the said Bridge. Resolved and ordered that Mr. Bend[t] Barrington and Mr. Laurence Tuttiett the younger, Church Ws. of Gregory Stoke af[d] do forthwith prepare a rate on the ten Parishes according to the proportions under named, and collect the same and apply, etc.

1	Aller Parish	1 10	in the pound	
2	Huish	1 5½		
3	Curry Rivell	1 5½		
4	Drayton	1 5½		
5	West Hatch	1 5½		
6	High Ham	1 5½	in ye pound	
7	Taunton St. Mary Magdalene	1 9¾		
8	Taunton St. James	1 9¾		
9	North Curry	3 7½		
10	Gregory Stoke	3 7½		
		£1 0 0		

1780, 3 Sept. At a vestry meeting.

I choose and appoint Edward Barrington to be clerk of the

Parish of S. St. Gregory under the favour and authority of Mr. Wilson, now Vicar of this Parish.

T. Goodwyn, Curate.

1792, Easter Monday, April 9. We whose names are hereunto subscribed do agree to give Robert Garnsey Ten Pounds to take care of the poor, etc., till Easter next.

1784, Jan. 28. At a vestry meeting, etc., concerning raising the sum of three pounds for to pay for a Bass Onne and to be raised again out of the Parish Rates. We whose names are written do agree, etc.

1784, Feb. 4. Another meeting concerning the paying the sum of three Pounds in part for a Bassoon and the Ch. Ws. or either of the Overseers pay the s^{d} money to Richard Brewer and the s^{d} money to be collected again and paid out of the rates.

N.B. And also we doth consent and agree that the s^{d} Bassoon shall remain to the Church Gallery to be play^{d} in consort of Musick by whom or whosoever can play it. As witness our hands, etc.

1786, Apl. 26. A vestry meeting for ceiling and whitening the Church. Mr. Edw^{d} Barrington consents to pay £5 5/ besides his usual rate. Contract entered into with Abraham Champion and Levi Chidgey to do the work for 15 Guineas.

1787, May 9. Articles of Friendly Agreement made concerning meeting every last day in each Calendar Month to consult and take such measures of maintaining the poor as shall be agreed upon at the meeting and we upon our word of honour to meet at the time mentioned or for non-performance to pay 1/ each for the use of the poor.

June 29. A vestry meeting, etc. do consent and agree for the Ch. Ws. to pay for the prosecution of Henry Tuttiett and Thomas Francis for a breach of Felony against William Sawtell for stealing his gees.

1790, Oct. 20. A vestry meeting, etc. concerning an estate of Land lying in the P. of Ruishton by advice given is the property of Abraham Keeby, etc. we consent and agree to employ Thomas Mullins Attorney at Law to recover the same the expense to be collected and paid out of the Parish rates. As witness our hands.

A large number of signatures.

1798, Oct. 10. A vestry meeting, etc. concerning given a yearly anuity to the singers, in respect of Buying books of tunes and keeping the musickel instruments in repair. We doth consent and agree in given the sum of 2 pounds per year to be paid by the Ch. Ws. and a proper account be given in what respect the money is disbursted.

1800, April 2. A vestry meeting concerning repairing of West Sedgmoor Wall. We doth hereby agree with Sam[l] Langdon to put the s[d] wall in good and proper repair so as it be passable in our said Jury as far as the wall belonging to our s[d] Parish doth run. Likewise the s[d] Langdon doth agree to put the s[d] wall in repair for 3/ a rope for the year ensuing And the expence shall be collected from the commoners belonging to the same.

1802, Sept. 17. A vestry meeting for rating the late encloser of all the commons and waste Lands. We have agreed to rate and assess each and every alotment held under the Dean and Chapter of Wells of an equal assessment of 6[d] each and each freehold alotment at 5¾ for the benefit of the Poor and Church and to rate and assess the purchasse lands according where the same is situated.

1805. A meeting to chose a person as perpetual overseer. Agreed with M[r] W[m] Brewer to act as such at £21 per ann. Also to nominate four different persons as Inspectors as an assistants to the s[d] perpetual overseer who should attend every pay day or Vestry meeting either personally or by other assistants and for every omission shall forfeit 5/-

1807, Sept. 18. A vestry meeting concerning Inditeing at the next Quarter Sessions John Palmer for building and encroaching near Stanmoor Bridge the same being proved to be an injury to the road. Also John Tuttiett for doing likewise in West Wall. And Edw[d] Lockyer in Hook near Hook Bridge and all other persons who have lately encroached any waste ground that shall be proved to be an injury to the roads except the same persons shall take down and level the same beforehand.

1809, 24 May. A meeting, concerning West Sedgmoor wall such allotment belonging to the s[d] Parish being greatly out of repair through the extremity of the water lately flown. We do agree with Edw[d] Barrington and Rob[t] Lockyer to put the same in good repair by the next sessions of the Water Sewers at the cost of the commoners belonging to the same at a rate of 2/6 each common.

1809, May 26. An assessment made for raising the sum of £8 from the ten Parishes for the repair of Stanmoor Bridge being the same proportion as were agreed or given in and settled between the Parishes at the general quarter sessions held at the Castle of Taunton on Tuesday 5[th] October 1754 when the Bridge had just before been taken down and rebuilt by the said Parishes at the expense of £104. Then follows the assessment before given (p. 244).

1811, Oct. 4. A vestry meeting concerning the Indictment of a certain drove called Slow drove being indicted for the in-

tent of a footpath to be made therein. And being advised that the same was unlawfully done we agreed that the same should be decided in some court of Law and agree to employ Mr. H. W. Mead to carry the same into execution at the next Quarter Sessions.

1813, March 5th A meeting concerning new re-casting the third Bell by Mr. Bilbie Bellfounder of Cullumpton. Mr. B agrees to provide a new bell at 21 pence per lb. and take the old Bell at 13d per lb. Mr. B to be at no expense in Carpentery, Smithing, Timber, nor Iron nor carriage of the new Bell up or the old Bell down. But Mr. B shall before removing the old Bell produce the new one at our church or give sufficient security likewise risk the new Bell to our church.

Stoke folks are wonderfully good at making bargains.

1814, Aug. 2nd A meeting concerning the affairs of Stanmoor Bridge, and whereas it appears by an ancient record in His Majesty's Court of King's Bench at Westminster that the Inhabitants of the several Parishes of (the 10 Parishes beforenamed) have from time immemorial whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary being used and of right ought to repair the sd Bridge, and whereas the sd Bridge is now rebuilding and all the said parishes except Taunton have either paid or agreed to pay their respective proportions. We agree to employ Mr. H. W. Meade of N. Curry to prepare a case for the opinion of counsel and to advise as to necessary proceedings to compel payment.

1815, Oct. 11. A vestry meeting for "choseing a Saxon." James Chidzoy chosen. Same day. For choseing a fit person for makeing the Parish Coffins. We agree in choice of Robert Keirle, Carpenter for the fixt price of 15/s for persons above the age of 15 years and 10/ for persons under that age.

1816, Feb. 28. A vestry meeting. Concerning the new rebuilding of Stanmoor Bridge. It being reported the Bridge being under Indictment and being so much out of repair was obliged to be taken down and rebuilt. And by the ten Parishes before named it was necessary that £600 should be raised. It was resolved and ordered thar Mr. Thomas Hurman Jr and William House Ch Ws do forthwith make a rate on the Parishes and carry out the work.

At another meeting held the same day concerning the raising of the sum of £108 15/ the proportion of S St Gregory do agree that 4 Rates according to the rate of 2d in the pound survey shall be made and collected on all and every of the owners or occupiers of lands, tenements, woods, Tithes or hereditaments.

1817, Aug. 9. A vestry meeting. Concerning payment being made for the above rebuilding. Whereas different parishes have refused to pay their proportl part. It was before agreed to employ Mr. H. W. Meade to enforce payment from the Parishes of Taunton and he having neglected the same it was agreed to employ some other Solecetor, and at another meeting

1819, May 7. Mr. John Warren of Langport Eastover is employed.

1818, Mar. 25. A vestry meeting, etc. We do hereby agree with John Coat for repairing West Sedgmoor Wall and Hollemore Lake at the sum of 4d per common and likewise in keeping in good and sufficient repair the River work and Stanmoor and Sedgmoor Clizes for the sum of £1 11 6 for the year ensuing.

1820, Oct 13. A meeting concerning the raising monies for paying the purchase of the lives for the Church House and ground being £104. We agree to sell the several piece or parcel of ground belonging to the said Church House by Public Auction for the said purchase and also to pay Mr. Saml Hillard the remainder of his bill towards the new rebuilding of Stanmoor Bridge being £113.

This substantial stone bridge remained until a few years ago when it was taken down by the commissioners of sewers. The road was then diverted and the river widened, the bank now occupying the position of the old road. The bridge was replaced by an inferior wooden structure.

Stoke St. Gregory Parish Book, No. IV. 1789 to 1799.

1793, Feb. 27. Received from Matthew Brickdall Esqr and Revd Doctor Crossman two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Somerset 5/ being the penalty paid by Edward Barrington of this Parish who was convicted by them of drunkenness in the sd Parish such sum to be distributed to the Poor of the sd Parish in Bread on Sunday next the 3d March.

The above money has been distributed as above ordered. Witnesses.

1795. pd towards getting three men for the Navy £28 6 9

1796. For a thread turn (spinning wheel) for Luke Lanes daug[r] 5/ For a wostard turn 2/6			
Expense at North Curry when the men was taken up to be examined of their occupation		12	6
Expences when level[d] the gardens in Stanmoor	1	10	0
pd towards the bass vial		10	6

1797. Journey and expence to Thorne and West Hatch concerning getting a man for the navy.			
Expence to Taunton geting the man sworn .		7	6
Towards the Navy man	5	5	0
to the Treasure in respect of the Navy man .	3	10	2

(at the end of account) Rec[d] from Thorne and West Hatch in respect of geting the Navy man . . .	6	14	0

1797. John Hussey for tracle and brimstone .			7½
Betty Hussey for Medcians for the Itch .			7

1798. Mary Smith In respect of her husband being drawn in the subtementle Millita for 2 weeks		8	0

1799. Two journeys to Taunton and summons for Rich[d] Franklin when he objected paying his part of the apprentice . .		6	0

At end of Book.

1796. (Amongst gifts of clothing) And to Mary Gellet some Lincey for an Wapron.

1793, May 1st At a vestry meeting. We have agreed upon to put down the Poor House and allowing the people abiding therein a monthly pay each person according as need shall require.

Stoke St. Gregory Parish Book, No. V. 1842 to 1847.

1842. At a vestry meeting held at the Parish Church, 20 July It was agreed that the bells should be rung by an approach to the Tower at the exterior of the Church that the under loft should be ceiled and all things done to render the job complete. That the under part of the singing loft should be ceiled and that a rate of 2½[d] in the pound should be made

for defraying such expences and for other matters connected with the church.

Signed Ric. Watson Moor Chairman.

23 Sept. A vestry meeting held for the purpose of chosing 12 special constables.[1]

1844, March 13. At a vestry meeting in the School Room. It was agreed that Curload Hill should be lowered and that the present Waywardens of the Higher division do complete it forthwith. Signed etc.

W. House } Surveyors of the
Thos Hembrow } Higher division.

1845, March 25th At a vestry meeting we doth agree to appoint a paid constable Mr. Robt Rowsell at the yearly salary of £6

1847, May 23. A meeting to consider the propriety of removing Paupers. Agreed that all Paupers be removed legally. And that a subscription be immediately entered into for the purpose of assisting the Poor during the present trying crisis.

Ric. W. Moor Chairman.

Stoke St. Gregory Church Book, No. I. 1741 to 1776.

April 14 1742. A Church Rate made by John Barrington and Thos Morrish Ch. Ws. of P. of Gregory Stok to Collect for Repaire of the Church House and Church and other disburstments one month or rate as follows.

Total				21	0	0
Paid The Lords rent for the Church acre				0	1	6
The Land Tax for the Church acre				0	4	2
Towards the Clize at Hook				0	0	3
Recd for the Church acre		0	15	0		
Pd nailes and labour for ye oven				0	2	3
For a Lye box (? making Lye from wood ashes —alkali)				0	1	6
Gaite for a swang in ye work House				0	2	0

1743. Thos Farewell Curatus Perpetuus (Vicar of N. C.)

1. See page 297.

At a vestry meeting of the Parish of Gregory Stoke held in the Chancell of the s^d^ Parish Church the usual place of holding the vestries of the said Parish pursuant to publeck notice given for that purpose in the s^d^ Parish Ch. on Sonday the Twenty fourth day of Aprill it was proposed agreed and consented to by us whose names are hereunder subscribed. That a new Clock shall be erected and put up in the Tower of the s^d^ Parish Ch at the expense of the s^d^ Parish and that the present Ch Ws of the Parish are hereby empowered to erect and put up the same in such manner as is most convenient and that a rate or rates shall be made and assessed for the charges of the same and all necessary expences ab^t^ the same.

On the next page is the following.

At a vestry meeting held the 29 Day of April 1743 concerning the erecting of a new Clock in the Parish Church of Gregory Stoke and we whose hands are hereunder written is not for having any clock erected there as witness our hands

A long list of names.

They had therefore to wait for their clock until the Queen's Jubilee, 1897, when a good clock with chimes was placed in the tower.

1743. pd Isake Winter for a shoule (shovel) .	0	02	06
pd a sommons for y^e^ intruders of our Parish .	00	00	06
Rowing y^e^ Deale and carriage . . .	00	03	06
W^m^ Powell for Ale for y^e^ workmen . .	00	04	04½
1744. Henry Gould, Curate.			
for drowing the rine in West Wall in Hook .	00	00	02
Jn^o^ Garent for stoping y^e^ Gap . . .	0	5	0
At Curry Court for a Book of Articles and Parieters fees	0	3	0
Gave the Ringers in Syder and expences the 5^th^ November	0	15	3
1745. Makeing a new furm and righting y^e^ Biear	0	5	6
Gave y^e^ Ringers in Cyder and Bread and Chees y^e^ day of Rejoycing concarning y^e^ Rebellion	0	14	6
Iearn (Iron) Clumps yous^d^ about the Bier .	0	00	3
Boarding the Church windows and puting a door between ye Church and the tower to keep ye sparrows out of Church . .	0	05	0
Oyle and Candle ye 5 November . .	0	01	0
2 Prayer Books concerning ye Rebellion .	0	03	0

This was the rebellion caused by the landing in Scotland of Charles Edward, called the "Young Pre-

tender," ending in the battle of Culloden. £30,000 is set upon his head. He escapes to France.

to a travelling concerning the sea Breaking in and drewning his cattle . . .	0	03	06
Mr. Thos. Crees for 19 and 11 New Quarrews (panes of glass)	1	08	0
1746. Gave the Ringers the fift November half hogshed of sider and bred and backey .	0	11	07
for a book concuring ye deth of Cattel . .	0	1	6
To the Acteparlemente for swearing[1] . .	0	1	0
To the Act for hornd Cattel . . .	0	1	6
Winder tax for the Church Howse . .	0	1	10½
To the Perriter for a form of Praior conserning the distemper on Hornd Cattel . .	0	01	6
to a man neare hunington lost by fire . .	0	03	0
a prayer Book for Peass[2] . . .	0	01	6
Wm. Stone towards ye repairing of Huck Bridg and threwing Church acre Rhine and cutting the weed	0	02	6
1749. A new cover for ye Vant . .	0	07	06
Cyder at the prossessions . . .	1	15	0
(Large number of soldiers and sailors, etc., also hedgehogs and polecats).			
Reed to cover ye Church . . .	0	0	4
(Probably spread on floors).			
John Verrier for righting the Stocks and the Seates round ye communion Table and ye seates in ye Church . . .	0	12	06
Plow hire to carry the Lime, Tyle, lafts, Creesses from ye River to Stoke Church . .	0	10	6

1. This refers to an act passed in the ninth year of George II, to prevent profane cursing and swearing. The penalty was for every labourer, common soldier or common sailor, one shilling.

Every person under the degree of a gentleman, two shillings; every person above that degree, five shillings.

Penalty to be paid down or committed for ten days. Common soldiers and sailors not paying the penalty to be set in the stocks.

Justices not doing their duty fined £5.

Half to the informer and the other half to the poor of the Parish in which the Justices reside.

The act to be read quarterly in all churches, and under penalty of £5 for neglect.

A copy of the act is still in the parish chest.

2. War with France, ending in the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, which lasted barely seven years.

Pd Robert Sharman to go ye Round of presses-sion	0	1	0
Cakes for ye pressession	0	13	6½
1752. Gave a man who had his house burnt by Fire	00	00	06
Gave seven seamen wh was taken by Algerine Pirates	00	03	01
gave to five men and three women which was cast away as they was going to Boston .	00	01	6
(and several other seamen, etc.			

Much stone work, hauling, etc., and for work about church.

Gave to workmen in ale and cyder . .	01	02	06
Gave to two men and one woman who lost £500 by fire	00	03	06
Gave to 2 Families of Henton in Dorsetshire who loss £680 and upwards signed by Thos. Middlecote Esq.	0	4	6
total disbursted .	52	4	11
1753-4-5. (Numberless sparrows and Polecats). searching out ye writings concerning Burrow Bridge		05	06
Expences at Wotton concerning ditto . .		02	06
Ditto at Langport with Mr. Banfield ditto .		04	00
pd Spurrell a book of ye Act of Parlement concg marriage	0	01	6
Expences at Bredwater Sessions concerning ye Judgment of Stanmoor Bridg . .	0	05	00
John Garlent for steping ye Gap at taping wall	0	03	06
1755. 2 men by a Brief of lost of stock in ye Distemper cattle to ye value of £700 .	0	02	06
Spurrell a Prayer book conserning the Earth Quake (Lisbon)	0	01	6
Walter Chedzoy pt of Rouffe casting ye Tower	2	05	0
(Four years are here summed up) total .	69	06	8

W. Brett, curate

Rate made, etc., names:
John Collins, Esq., for Slough Farm.
Mr. Owen or occupier at Frog Lane.
Esq. Portman or occupier.

1756. Gave to 3 seamen who was taken by the Algerines	0	1	6
for Oyle and Candless at the 5th November .	0	0	10

Gave to four seamen w^h was cast away going from Lincoln to Philidelphia and landed at Flushing in Cornwall . . .	0	1	6
To a sailor who was taken by Pyrates and landed at Dartmouth . . .	0	0	6
to Three farmers who had lost their Cattle in Cheshire the Past was signed by Esq Maddocks	0	2	0
for ye lent of a mare to go to Bristole with Spreketts wench with an order and expense at Taunton	0	9	0
1758. Expences when the Bell was taken down	0	2	6
more when ye Bell was brought whome in haueing into Church and up in tower .	0	2	6
Beear for Mr. Bailey workmen for their allowances	0	08	06
Bett Tarr for ale that Mr. Bailey men had in their work	0	5	0
W^m Pearce for wood to heat ye irons . .	0	0	6
Pitcher y^e Glazoyer for work done about ye Church	4	10	3
fetching of cole for the Glaziers to heat theire Irons	0	0	6
More to Mr. Bailey	30	7	6
for two coppies of ye church acre and House .	1	05	0
James Winslade for Rowing ye Bells and whole clapper and other things (brought by river)		12	0
Expences to Bridgwater to take ye waite of the Bell at severall times . . .	0	5	0
the Ringers when ye Bell was Hang up .	0	3	0
1759. for moueing the Singing Laught .	2	0	0
ye Parritor conserning ye fast . . .	0	02	0
1761. the Kings Coronation (Geo. III) .	0	2	6
the same time ½ hogshead Cider . .	0	12	0
Spurle for a form of prayer 12 March . .	0	1	6
(Large number of hedgehogs and sparrows).			
1762. A prayer Book concerning ye peace[1] .	0	1	6
for Dykeing ye Church acre Rhine and ditch .	0	05	6
Petcher for Plumind Glazing the Windows soddering and Banding . . .	16	02	6
for candle used about ye leds . . .	0	0	6
1763. Ale and Cyder for Walter Chedzoy and his to sons for 2 year . . .	0	12	9

1. War with France, called "the seven years' war," ending in the Peace of Paris, Feb. 10, 1763.

for catching a badger	0	6	8
Mr. Bayley for ye Cock and Spills (weather-cock)	1	9	0
Ditto for a bell claper 34 lb		17	6

1764. Mr. Bailey pt of his bill for casting ye gt Bell and other work 12 13 0
Cyder for all ye workmen 1 9 2½
six days work about ye Cock and tower 0 09 9
Mr. Bayley pt of his bill for casting ye gt Bell and other work 10 0 0
Mr. Crees pt of his Glazing 13 17 2

1765. Pd ye caridge of 4 Ledd to Taunton and from Taunton to Stoke Led and timber 2 10 0
pd ye turnpike[1] 0 3 0
for deele and oke 7 15 6
one hogshead of Cyder to ye workmen 1 5
towards Righting ye Road to Huck Bridg 0 2 6

1767. A Rate made to collect 5 months or rates.

There are heavy expenses about the church.

1766. A Prayer concerning ye Prucis[2] 0 1 6
Oake and deele for the Church porch 2 7 6
drawing of Led to Taunton and from Taunton and the Timber from Taunton being 9 Load 02 7 3
the turnpick 00 4 6

total 53 9 11

the other Ch. Wn. is almost a duplicate 54 7 3½

total 107 17 2

1768. Charles Combes, Curate.

1769. (A large number of sailors and travellers, and bills for repairs, carpenters, masons, plumbers and "Glaziours.")
A prayer book concerning ye Princes 0 1 6
for a pipe conserning ye singers 0 4 0

A rate made to collect 6 months or Rates.

1769. A Well coller and Drawing to church 0 11 0

1. See p. 126.

2. About this time died suddenly the duke of Cumberland, aged forty-five, and prince Frederic William, brother of the king, in his sixteenth year.

ye Ringers pr Wilts[1]	0	5	0

Still heavy expenses, including

Mr. Murlice £21 4*s*. 6*d*. Do. £12. Do, £23 18*s*. and £23 18*s*. and ale and cyder to ye workmen £3 10*s*.

total disbursted .	91	00	6
Rec[d] by a bill of 6 Rates .	72	15	10½
1770. A form of Prayer for ye Princeis .		1	6
for ye Berth of a Princes . . .		2	6
for a form of prayer for ye Prince . .		1	6
Spurrell for a paper to be read in church concerning ye Death of ye Prince . .		1	6
1772. Half Hoxhead of Cyder 5th November .	1	1	0
Meat bread and Ceees for the same . .		9	10
Spurritt a Book of Prayers concerning Prince born		1	6
Risen the wall and widning the river . .	0	2	0
Ritting the Preerae cloth . . .	0	1	6
Lime and feching from fifoot . . .	0	3	0
1773. James Verrier for the Diall . .	2	12	6
for the Church acre rine work and the way to carry the Hay	0	2	8
1774. Parting of ye Parish into £50 according to ye survey for an apprentice[2] . .	0	3	6
for 5 Bell ropes	1	7	0

1. This refers to John Wilkes who was returned as a member for Middlesex, and about whom there was great tumult all over the country in consequence of his seditious language and publications against the king and government, contained in a political periodical called *The North Briton*, for which he was outlawed; but on his further trial at the court of king's bench his outlawry was reversed. Wilkes was expelled the House of Commons. A proclamation was issued against tumultuary meetings of the people. Whether the Stoke people sympathised with Wilkes or the government is not clear, but he appears to have been the popular favourite. It is very probable they did favour him, for at this period the government had imposed new taxes to pay off arrears of debt caused by the war. Among other means had recourse to was an impost of four shillings a hogshead on cider. Against this and the high price of provisions there was a popular outcry, with occasional riots. In the next session of parliament the tax on cider was repealed. It was also about this time the attempt was made to tax our colonies, resulting in the American War of Independence.

2. See p. 243.

Wm. Duck for a new wheel for ye fourth bell and other things and a man to help him .	2	0	3
Pasengers or Seamen at 15 several times .	1	15	0
Henry Keirle half his sallery and keeping ye Register and wasing of ye Surplis . .	2	1	3

Henry K. was clerk, and it was part of his duty to make up the accounts, keep the register, etc.

for righting ye wall at Stanmoor belonging to ye Church House	0	0	6
for doing ye *wall and rihne* belonging to ye Church House	0	1	6
for a Rump of Beef and Mores do. . .	0	7	6
pd for Cyder and Bread and Chees ye 29 May .		6	10½
1775. A Hogshead of Cyder the 5th Nov. .	0	14	0

26 May, 1766. Sold to Mr. Josiah Crocker Bridge a seat in the church at Stoke St. Gregory late Mr. Chinns for the lives of Mary Bridge wife of the said J. C. B. and for the Lives of Josiah B., Mary B., and Charlotte B., children of the said J. C. B. and M. B. for one shilling as witness our hands the day and year above written.

Edward Brewer
John Pine } Church Ws.

22 April, 1775. Sold to Benedict Barrington Jun a seat in the Church at Stoke St. Gregory late Mr. John B. for the lives of Benedict and Elizabeth his wife and for the lives of Edward, Ann, and Grace, children of the said B. B. and E. B. for one shilling as witness our hands the day and year above written.

Thos. Morris.
John House.

Stoke St. Gregory Church Book (No. 2). 1776 to 1813.

1776. Pd 3 Hedghogs 6*d*. 15 Doz Sparrows .		2	6
at ye 5th November pd one hogshead ot Cyder and Beef and Bread and Chees and fireing to ye same	1	2	6
Pd a brist (? brief)		1	10
Recd of Edw. Lockyer for three years rent of the church acre . . . £3	1	1	

1778. A rate made May 4th to collect as many rates as need shall require which is one and half at 2*d*. to ye pound per rate which makes 3*d*. to ye pound.

	£	s	d
One rate is .	8	14	6½
1779. A form of Prayers in time of war .		1	6

War with America, France, and Spain.

A form of Prayer for a Fast . . .		1	6
Thos Owens for the Common work . .		1	0
for killing 22 Pole Catts		7	4
Do. 2 Stoates and one hedghog . .			6
Do. 128 Doz. and 9 and 43 Doz. Sparrows	1	8	10
1780. 188 Doz and 116 Doz Sparrows . .	2	11	0
27 Pole Cats		9	0
14 Hedghogs		2	4
1782. For 1 Porcupine			2
For Cyder 5th November and carriage . .		17	0
1 Chees to the same		2	3
6 Loaves of Bread to the same . . .		4	0
For Cyder pr ye 29 of May 1783 . .	1	2	6
pr 10½ yds of fine Irish pr a serplis . .	2	12	6
pr making of the same	1	1	0
washing of the serplis at Easter . . .		2	6
1783. pd pr a form of prayer pr a safe delivere of the Queen		1	6
per matts for ye communion seats . .		6	0
John Dare pr goeing to Wells for Licence pr Noah Davis and expences for man and horse	2	8	6
Mr Row his bill pr expence at Taunton concerning Noah Davis		15	8
pr Guard going to Taunton with Noah Davis and expence of ye Guard . . .		10	6
his examination and 3 orders and his mittemass		7	6
1785. For Righting of the Pulpit pall . .		1	0

1786, May 31. William House was chosen Clerk of the Parish of Stoke St. Gregory by the Revd Canon Wilson and officiated June 4 following.

1792. for Sider Beef Bread and Cheese and Garden mores at ye 5th Novr . .	1	3	4½
Six Egyptians[1] to set them out of the Parish .		6	0
John Beck for a Otter		1	0

1. "Gipsies," see page 315.

1794. Craved allowance p[r] Burrow Parsonage		4	2
1796. P[d] towards the Bass Vial		10	6
for 195 Doz of Sparrows	1	12	6
for 122 Hedgehogs and Polecats	2	0	8
for geting a man for the navy		2	6
for the form of prayer for the fast		1	6

Famine and discontent were general and we were at war with France.

1801. for repairing of Sedgmoor wall		1	9½
P[d] two me one day for repairing the River at taping wall		3	0
gave the ringers when peace was proclaimed		10	6

This was after Nelson's great victory at Copenhagen (April 2) and the victory at Alexandria, where Sir Ralph Abercromby was killed (March 21). Peace was arranged with Bonaparte October 1, and signed at Amiens, March 18, 1802.

pd W[m] Hutchem for repairing of Hook River	1	4	0
pd 2 years disburstments for Hook Bridge		9	0
paid for 222 Doz Sparrows at 2[d] per Doz	1	17	0
Rec[d] of William House for the rent of the Church house allotment	10	10	0
Rec[d] of Edward Lockyer for rent of the Church Acre	3	15	0
Joshua Morris for Burrow Parsonage rate		5	0
1803. For a Silver plate for the Church[1]	2	12	6
1804. 283 Doz of Sparrows	2	17	2
44 Hedghogs and Polecats		14	8
1805. For two forms of prayer for the Thanksgiving and Fast		3	0

21 October. Battle of Trafalgar.

1806. The whole amount of Levi Chedzoy's bill for repair of Tower and Ch Yard Walls	47	9	2
1807. Rev[d] M[r] Abraham (Curate) for copy of two years Registers		10	0
paid Rev[d] M[r] Abraham for copying 20 years Register at 10/6 p[r] year of which I paid half	£5	5	0

1. This probably refers to the salver mentioned under church plate, page 225. Why this, being purchased by the parish, should bear the arms of Speke and Anderton is not clear.

1808. Pd Carpenter for a chest for award of Inclosure		8	0
1809. Revd Mr Mules (Curate) for Register .		8	0
for 506 foot of Oak under the Seats at 6d .	12	13	0
Do. 174 Do. Do. .	4	7	0

Also a considerable amount for mason's work, paviour, elm, board, etc.

total amounting to .	£230		
To Mr Franklin pr Broad Cloth etc. . .	7	2	0
Mr. James Jeans and Mr John Dare ye 4 and 5 days of October for measuring the Incroachments in Stanmoor concerning the Indictment of Hoil and Jenkins and attending 2 days at Taunton Sessions . . .	1	0	0
pd to Saml Hellard as pr bill for Oak skirting at 4½d pr foot painting the Pulpit and repairing the Canopy	£5	19	0
pd Jn Barrington for puting all the estates in the Parish in the present owners names and alloting the same into £50 per year according to survey	£3	0	0
1810. pd the Revd Mr Mules (curate) in part for the nomination of the Baptisms, Burials and marriages for 10 years . . .	£1	1	0
pd Saml Hillard in part towards the framing and drawing of the Creed, Lords Prayer and ten commandments and the Coat of Arms	29	0	0
(and numerous other repairs) total .	73	0	0
1813. pd the provideance for four sacrements	1	17	2
Expence at Taunton concerning the local expense at Burrow different times to consult with the Churchwardens of the other different parishes concerning the new rebuilding of Stanmoors Bridge . . .		11	0
pd at Langport Watershewers . . .		3	0
Second entry for Creed, etc. as above made by other Ch: Warden	29	0	0
total of other Ch: Warden . .	94	0	0
1813. for drawing notices and delivering the same to nine Parishes concerning Stanmoor Bridge		18	0
for advertiseing Stanmoor to get the same rebuilt	2	0	0

West Hatch Church.

Section VI.

West Hatch.[1]

THIS is the third parish included in the hundred and manor of North Curry. It has in this respect a similar history to North Curry and Stoke St. Gregory. It was made a separate ecclesiastical parish in 1856, and the Rev. W. Parkin was appointed perpetual curate. A few years afterwards, the value of the living was augmented by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. It became a vicarage in 1869.[2] Its area is 1,677 acres; ratable value £2,620; and the population in 1881 was 415. The Rev. A. D. Reece has been the vicar since 1880.

The following is Collinson's description: "West Hatch, so called on account of its westerly situation from Hatch Beauchamp, in the hundred of Abdick and Bulstone,[3] is a small parish containing forty-five houses, most of which are small farms and cottages. The country is rather flat and woody, the chief wood oak and elm, of which there is a large coppice consisting of ten acres. The only common land is Shutwood Green, containing five acres, and Sloley's Green, containing twenty acres. The manor is included in the grant of King Richard the First to the church of

1. Hatch or Hacche means a low gate towards the forest. This is a common suffix in the neighbourhood of ancient forests, in this case meaning the forest of Neroche.

2. By act of 31 and 32 Vict. c. 117, the incumbent of every parish or new parish for ecclesiastical purposes, not being rector, shall be styled vicar.

3. This is an error, it should be in the Hundred of North Curry. Hatch Beauchamp is in the Hundred named.

Wells, and now belongs to the dean and chapter. The reeve or bailiff of the manor provides at the lord's expense a feast on Christmas day; and distributes to each householder a loaf of bread, a pound and half of beef, and the like quantity of pork undressed; and the same evening treats them to a supper.

"The living is appendant to North Curry, not mentioned in the taxations or other similar records. The church consists of a nave, chancel, and porch, tiled, and a large old tower forty-five feet high, with three bells. On the north wall of the nave is this inscription: 'In memory of John Knowles, Gent., who departed this life the 16 day of June, 1724, and in his last will gave five pounds to be left in the churchwardens hands for ever, and the interest of the same to be given to the second poor on Christmas day.'"

West Hatch has always participated in the custom of the Reeve's feast. Allusion is made to this in this account of Collinson's, but it is not quite correct. Under the arrangement converting it into a charity, West Hatch now receives an annual sum of £4 19*s*. As a portion of the manor, West Hatch had rights of pasturage on the moors, and had also duties to perform with regard to repair and cleansing the "Lord's rivers." It will also be seen from the parish and other accounts (more particularly those of Stoke St. Gregory), that it was one of the parishes which was contributory to the repair, and afterwards rebuilding, of Stanmoor bridge.

What is now Meare Court Farm in this parish, was probably an old manor house, and appears to have been in possession of Peter de Yevelton, A.D. 1192, who claimed rights of hunting, fishing, fowling, etc., and also a "gestum" at Christmas, which seems to have relation to the reeve's feast. The following relating to this appears in *Wells MSS.*, p. 123: "Indenture made Feb. 15, anno regis Ric. 3°. Peter de Yevelton had claimed against the dean and chapter rights of hunting, fowling, fishing, and common pasture in their manor of North Cory, Westhache, and

Knappe, as belonging to Mere which he holds under them. He also claims 'quoddam gestum quolibet anno in die Natali Domini, de ipsis D. and C. in eorum camera apud North Cory.'" "An agreement is made by which the said Peter retains the right of pasture and the Christmas feast, and resigns all other claims."

There is afterwards frequent mention made of Thomas de la Mere in the *Wells MSS.*, and his name appears contemporaneously with those of John de Knappe and Galfr. de la Slo, or John de la Slo, from A.D. 1264 to 1316. In the customs of North Curry he is mentioned thus: "Thomas de la Mere has a virgate and a messuage, and he must come in white gloves and a white rod in his hand to Kingesmeade, to superintend the mowers and those who make the hay."

It has been mentioned that the toasts to be given at the reeve's feast dinner were to be "the *real* Jack of Knapp," and "the *real* Jack of Slough." Whether the word "real" refers to the original persons, or those who appear in the later days to have retained the title by being the owners of certain lands; or, that it meant the "real" as distinct from a deputy, by which each was permitted to be represented at the feast, is doubtful. *A* John de Knappe and John de Slo were in existence in A.D. 1314, when the feast was re-instituted on the evidence of a jury; and a John de Knappe existed in 1297, when a defalcation took place in the collection of the king's tenth, for which he was collector;[1] and they appear to be real personages. And from the same documents there was a Thomas de Mere at the same period. They were no doubt leading men in the district. The dates given are long after the time of king John, who flourished from A.D. 1199 to 1216, and is reputed to have instituted the feast. But Peter de Yevelton made his claim before referred to A.D. 1192, in the time of Richard I; therefore there appears to be some reason to suppose the feast was instituted prior to king John.[2]

1 See page 9.

2. See page 29.

Some curious customs of the tenants of the manor with regard to certain services and making hurdles for the lord are related in *Wells MSS.*, page 162. It is there also stated that the value of the manor of "Hacche" is £16 15*s.* 3½*d.* Meare Court is now the property of the Honourable H. P. Gore-Langton, who also owns Lillesdon Court and Slough. There is still a good deal of coppice wood in this parish, and several quarries of lias stone, which is much used for lime burning.

The Church, supposed to be dedicated to St. Andrew, is in the Perpendicular style, and now consists of a chancel with aisles, nave, and north aisle, square tower and five bells.

The peal consists of the following :

	cwts.	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	
Tenor . .	8	approx.		A
IV . .	6	„		B
III . .	5	„		C♯
II . .	4	2	23	D
Treble . .	4	0	10	E

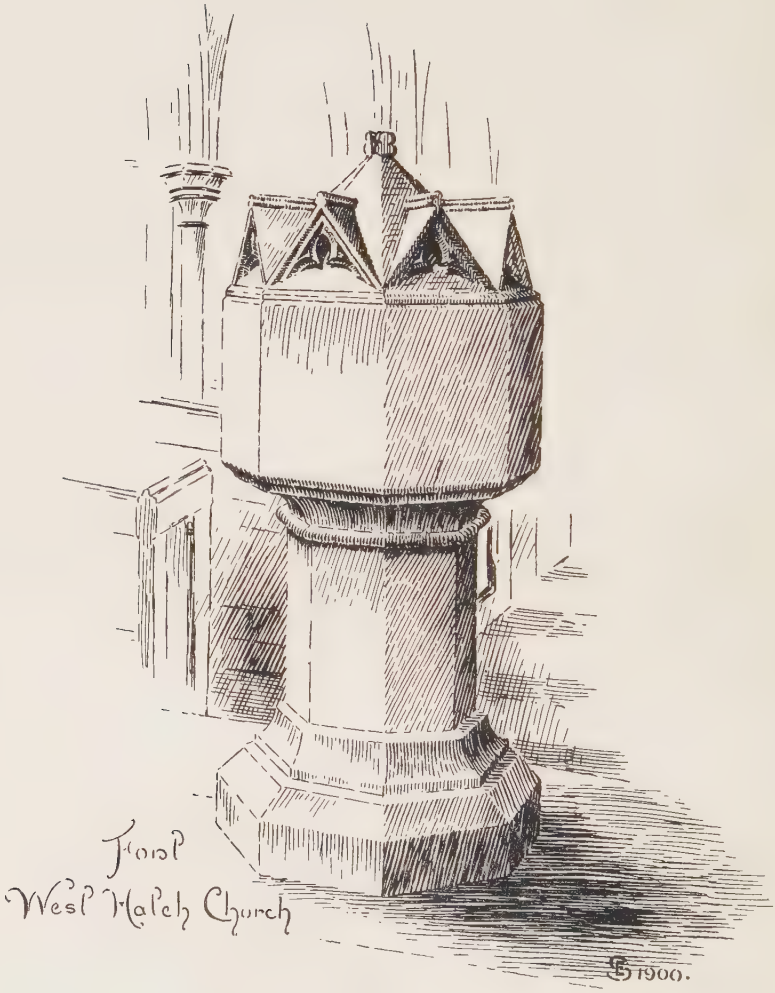
Nos. I and II, cast 1861, by Geo. Mears and Co., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London.

The tower was rebuilt and the north aisle added about the year 1861. There is a memorial window in the chancel to W. H. P. Gore-Langton, Esq.

In the floor of the aisle near the pulpit is a large stone engraved with a coat of arms and inscribed in memory of Richard Sealy, 1607, William Sealy, 1683, and on a marble tablet is Christian Sealy, widow of and relict of Wm. Sealy, Gent., Sept. 9th, 1727, aged. 72. The arms on this stone are nearly the same as those found on a stone built into the wall of the barn at Meare Court Farm, and also over the door of the old Manor House, North Curry.

On the outside of the church, over the east gable, there is a beautiful and noteworthy old cross. In the churchyard is a large stone tomb to Hearne, 1617.

A neat mission church was erected in 1892, at Meare Green, by Mrs Raban, of Hatch Beauchamp, as a memorial to her husband, the late Capt. Raban.


Font
West Hatch Church
1900.

The Font is described by Mr. Harvey Pridham as being of an earlier date than those of North Curry or Stoke St. Gregory—namely, "Early Decorated period, 1272-1325—one of the fonts occasionally met with which make a certain opinion as to age impossible. It may be new or an old one re-chiselled. Outside all octagonal, freestone. Inside, circular bowl, lead-lined, vertical sides, flat plan, 19in. inside diameter, 10in. deep, modern cover."[1]

The *Church Plate* is thus described by Revs. E. H. Bates and F. Hancock, in Somerset Archæological *Proceedings*, vol. xlvi: "The vessels here are only electro-plate. They consist of a cup, paten, and flagon, c. 1860. There is also a curious old pewter tankard with flat lid, marked I.S., 1778, C.W."[2]

The Register dates from 1606. The early portions are not in good condition and are very indistinct. The marriages have recently been transcribed and are published among the Somerset marriages by Messrs. Phillimore and Hayward. The parish books are fairly complete from 1704 and contain many matters of interest. There is preserved among the old papers a printed form of affidavit formerly made before burial to declare that the body was buried in woollen[3] only, and in the accounts a fine of £5 is levied on the representatives of Mrs. Christian Sealy for being buried in "lininge," half of which is distributed to the poor.

1. In the churchwardens' accounts for 1752 is: "for a cover for ye vant."

2. In the churchwardens' accounts for 1778 is: "for a *silver* stand for the sacrament £1 5s. for a puter pint 1s." What has become of the silver stand?

3. See page 326.

Extracts from West Hatch Parish Books.

The following extracts are from the West Hatch Parish Books, commencing 1704. They are very complete and fairly well preserved, containing many points of interest filling up a period relating to which North Curry has no record.

Church Book No. 1. 1704 to 1812.

1706. Laid out for 12 yards of hollen for the surples and macking . . .	01	18	0
paid a hogdoge			4
Laid out at North Curry at ye visitation and Pd ye Doctors	00	04	0
Pd ye Lords rent for ye Church House and Church Yard	0	1	4

It will be seen they had a church house here and paid lord's rent for it.

May 2. Gave ye Ringers concerning ye Union between England and Scotland . .	0	01	6
pd to ye County Jayle and Bridges . .	0	02	6
1709. for fower score of Red shefs for ye Church House	0	13	4
for 2 Quarters to ye Hospital . . .	0	02	0
1712. (Sig.) Hugh Legge, Curate.			
pd for making a beir drip and righting of another		1	8
1713. Laid out for a paper for ye praying for ye Elector		1	0
Ye Ringers ye Rejoycing day . . .		7	6

After the death of princess Sophia (daughter of James I), in whose line the succession to the throne rested after the death of queen Anne, her son, the Elector of Brunswick or Hanover, was prayed for in the liturgy of the Church of England. He was afterwards king George I.

The "Rejoycing day" was on account of the declar-

ation of peace. The peace of Utrecht, observed 7th July, 1713.

1714. Ye ringers ye Coronation day (George I)			3 0
for my labour and my horse to carry Robert Sweet to ye bone setter . . .			1 6
In money to Robert Sweet to pay a bone setter			3 0
for mending ye Gudging and ye cage of ye great bell	00	02	10
1719. pd the years Hospital . . .	0	04	01
1720. pd for a Badrip for ye great bell. .	00	01	00
for a napkin to cover the Bread and Wine .	00	03	0
1724. for a blacke cloth . . .	1	15	6
for making it		10	
for gold theard		5	10½
for a uping stock	0	02	06
1731. for ye tutts (footstools) in ye Church .	00	03	03
1739. for the Church Lions . . .	00	01	4

The same entry on several occasions in North Curry. ? Royal arms.

1746. Pd Thomas House for building up of the Brates (?) and for taking down the water tabel and puting up again . . .		19	0
pd for paryer beecks con Sarning the fast days		3	0
three sackes of greast cates . . .		2	0
1747. for the Kinges procklemasson and a sarmont book		1	6
Gaved to a brefe by the con Sent of som of the peresner		2	0
for holling and reting the sarples . .		5	6
1748. for twes waisings the Lining . .		3	0
1750. pd to a woman to send her out of the Parish		1	0
1752. for a cover for ye vant (font) . .		2	0
1753. for hoshier going to Tanton to Mr. Burridge a But Stonmere Bridge . .		1	0
for hos hier goen to Gregre Stoke . .			6

1777, Dec. 5. for a form of Prayer for Her Majesty's Saff delivery . . .		1	6
1778. for a silver stand for the sacrament .	1	5	0
for a puter pint		1	0
1784. p[d] for Lycence, marriages and Births .	0	06	0
1788, Nov. 26. paid for a form of Prayer for the King		1	6
1789, Mar. 9. P[d] for a form of Thanksgiving for the King's recovour . . .		1	6
April 15. P[d] for a form of Thanksgiving for the Fast day			

Numerous occasions occur, about this time, of days of fast and thanksgiving, both on account of the wars in which we were engaged as well as the state of the king's health (Geo. III), and of distress from famine, which had raised prices to an enormous extent. On Nov. 13, 1788, there was ordered a prayer for the king's recovery when he became insane. On April 3, 1789, a general thanksgiving for his recovery, when he went to St. Paul's in state.

1793. p[d] for a form of Preyer for a fast.			
1794, Feb. 17. Do. Do.			
Paid at Curry Court		4	6
1795. p[d] for a form of prayer for a fast.			
1797, Mar. 4. Do.			
1798, Oct. 26. paid for a Book of Prayers for ye Fast of Admiral Nelson . . .		1	6
same time gave ringers		2	0
Nov. 5. p[d] for a form of Prayer for the fast.			
1800, May 24. Do. for His Majesty.			
1801, Jan. 24. for a proclamation and form of prayer		3	0
Feb. 7. Proclamation		1	8
1802, Mar. 10. Paid for Postes and Pleng (Plank) and labour for a new peare of stockes	1	9	0
Oyl and paint for painting the stockes . .		3	

for nailes and spukes for the Stockes . .	0	0	6
for myself for fetching the timber for the stockes		2	6
for a lock for the Stockes . . .			3½

1803. for Prayers for the Church . . 1 6
Oct. 6. Do. for the King.
May 17. Do. for the Fast.
May 23. Do. for the King.

1805. Feb. 9. for Prayers for the Fast.
„ 30. Do. for the King.

Nov. 23. A letter for the Fast . . .	0	0	8
Do. paid for prayers.			

1806, Feb. 5. for prayers for the fast.

1810, Feb. 17. Do.
Dec. 15. for Prayer for the King's health.
Do. for the Fast.

The postage of papers concerning the relief of Prisoners in France . . .	0	0	7

1812. Prayers for the Fast.

Church Book No. 2. 1815 to 1831.

1815. for the forms of Prayer for thanksgiving		2	6
May 2. For taking account of the population and taking the dimensions of the Church by Order of his majesty . . .		15	0
1817. for Prayers for the Prince Regent .		2	6
1818, Dec. for Prayer for Queen . .		2	6
1820, Feb. 26. p[d] for a list and form of Prayers		5	0
Mar. 6. for a form of Prayer . . .		2	6
1824, Dec. 25. p[d] man with a pass that he had to every Parish		2	0
1827. Paid for 2 letters of Lisons . .	1	0	0
1830. John Linton for music strengs for the Church	0	6	0
1831, April 16. for advertisin the Church .	0	4	0
Wm. Taylor for Rising the Church . .	32	6	10

Parish Book, No. I. 1714 to 1741.

1714. To Thomas White, etc.			
A blankcloth for him	0	4	0
for a paire of breches for him . . .	0	2	0
for a shirt for him	0	3	0
John Thomas for a syfe and stones for him .			
for tacklinge for his syfe . . .			
for a seam of wood	0	1	0
To Christopher Watkins for keeping ye mared woman	0	1	0
To Mrs. Legg for physik and unguents and bleeding severall poor people . .	0	12	0

Hugh Legge was curate. This was probably his wife.

1715. towards Standmoores bridge . .	0	8	5
p[d] for bages	00	02	0
Badges for paupers.[1]			
towards Stanmoores bridge . . .	02	9	1
Charles Ball Goal money . . .	00	03	06
1716. Mary Stevens in wheat and money .	00	05	06
To Mary Morgan to help buy a turn (spinning wheel)	00	01	00
To Mary Morgan for her Groaning . .	00	04	06
for a shroude for Rich[d] Kate . . .	00	03	04
To John Collins. 2 weeks at 1/6 . .	00	03	00
for a coffin	00	06	00
for his burriall in bread beare and Cheese and makeing ye Grave Affidavit stretching him out intending him in his sickness . .	00	05	00
1717. Goale and Marshall money . .	0	5	0
1718. P[d] for ye affy davy . . .	0	0	6
1719. P[d] about Sedgmoore Wall . .	00	04	0
p[d] John Edwards for lent of a horse to goe to Mr. Wares and Mr. Pincent for to Sign Collard's discharge	00	01	00
p[d] Mis Sealy for a Bushel of Wheate for Gatchell	00	04	06

1. It was customary for all paupers to wear badges.

for a yd and halfe of pole davy to mend their bead	00	00	10
for 14 yd and Halfe of Keezy at 2s and 1d per yd	01	10	04
for 12 yd and Halfe of brine at 9 per yd	00	09	04½
1720. to John Thomas in distress	0	5	0
And for bleeding and purging Mall Morgan and hun	0	2	6
A paire of breeches	0	2	10
Disburstmts concerning Rowland Bath for Horse hire and expcs to Halstocks	0	4	0
for Expcs to Tho Houses	0	3	0
Expencs first to Justice Warrs at ye Rock	0	0	11
To Henry Stevens to go to Okey	0	2	6
to Mr. Pileman 2 Warrts and Mittimus	0	3	0
for Horse hire Expencs and fee of ye Courte at Wells sessions		12	6
to Mr. Jno Taylors expencs of ye Guard	1	12	1½
to ye Gaurdsmen for Guarding at Hatch Inne	0	8	6
to Henry Stivens to goe to ye Justice to testifie	0	1	0
to ye Guard and Expcs to carry him to prison	0	8	9½
to Mr. Pileman for sending to Wells	0	6	8
More for horse hire and Guards men about him	0	9	6
Lent of Parish Stocks	0	3	0
1721. George Strett for work done about ye Cucking Stoole	0	6	4
for ier nailes and a locke	0	02	0
for 3 trees about ye worke	0	06	0
for shage 3yd 3qrs at 1 2½ per yd	00	04	06
for one yd of doulas for caps	0	1	0
pd Mr Hugh Legg (The Curate) for setting and curinge ye Collar bone of Joane Whites neck	00	10	0
1722. John Collard in his Wife's lying in	00	05	00
for 11 yards of Bren for Collard's family at 11d per yd	00	08	3
pd for four dinners at Sessions	00	04	0
pd Grace Cousins for cureing of Mary Kates	00	02	6
1723. pd for 10 yds of cloth to make Kate's maid and Margery gouns at 20d per yd	00	16	00
for 4 yds of Casie to make Tho Gatchell a Coat at 2s 4d per yd	00	09	04
for curing of Bess Coxes hand	00	03	6
1727. Pd to fetching out of Collard of Ilchester fees there and reversing the Out Law	6	11	4

December the twenty second 1727 Then gave to the poore

for burying Mrs Christian Sealy in Lininge the sum of Two Pounds and ten shillings in presents of (presence of)
the A marke of [?]
Gabriell Pococke. Church Wardens.

The occount of Maddam Strangways, Overseer of the Poor for the year 1727 etc.

1727. pd Christopher Watkins 6 Weeks att 1/s ye weeke	00	06	00
pd him 8 weeks att 1s 3d ye weeke	00	10	00
pd him 13 weekes att 1s ye weeke	00	13	00
pd him to weekes att 1s 4d ye weeke	00	2	08
pd him 17 weeks att 2s ye weeke	01	14	00
pd him halfe a weeke	00	01	00
A paire of Stockings for him	00	00	11
for a paire of shews for him	00	03	10
for two shirts for him	00	05	06
for a blankett and bolster	00	05	05
pd for a coffin for him	00	08	0
pd for streching him out	00	01	00
pd for Slivers	00	00	09
for breade and cheese	00	01	09½
for makinge affadavit	00	01	06
for washinge ye Close	00	02	00
for makinge ye grave and ringinge ye bell	00	02	00
for changes for Kates and Caps	00	06	08
for a change for Margery and Caps	00	03	08
Pd the Docteris woman about Vincent	01	06	03
pd for swathering for him	00	00	09
for carrying him to the Docterises	00	01	00
James Cousins for Keeping of Pocock's wench 8 weeks at 2/6 a week	1	00	00
for Searching ye Register about Pocock wench	00	02	00
for a bed tie and bolster for Pocock Wench	00	03	09
for a blankett for her	00	03	00
for a shett for her	00	02	06
1729. for Salve and Oyntmt for Vincent	00	07	06
for badges for the poor	00	01	06
pd for bread and chees and Bear in stretching forth Mary Jenkins	00	01	02
for stretching her out	00	01	00
for the affidavit	00	00	06
for bread and chees and bear at her Buriall	00	02	07
for bleeding of Mary Jenkins	00	01	00
1730. To a Whittle for Bess Cox	00	02	00
pd Mrs Mays for Keeping Joan Curry 17 days and Salve for her Legge	00	17	00
pd for Shag to put about her Legg	00	00	10
for Oyntment and water for her Legge	00	01	06

John Notham for dressing her Legge . .	00	05	00
6 yards of Bren for changes for Sweet's child .	00	04	06
1730. Mr Legg for marrying Edw^{d} Sweet .	0	10	0
for the licence for Edw^{d} Sweet . . .	1	04	6
for carrying him to Esq Warre's and Keeping him two days and expenses for the gard .	0	19	0
1731. For ye tutts in ye Church . .	0	03	3
1732. for a Hatt, change and Capps for Margery Masters	0	04	0
1733. for wakeing (watching) with Margery .	0	01	0
for stretching forth of Margery Masters affidavid and Bread and chees and bear in her Buriall	0	06	10
1734. for a jump (or Goun) for Kates and making	00	10	06
1735. Dr. Bryant for seting Nell Palmers arm	4	4	0

1736. for a Gump for Hannah Kates 10/6
for a shift for Hop Kings 2/6

1737. paid in expenses in going to Wrantage and North Curry with warrants for Tom Jenkins woman 1/-
paid Bet Morgan when she lay in 2/-
for two badges 4^{d}
Paid the midwife for Bet Morgans lying in 2/-
for a spinning wheel for Susannah Tiller 2/6
paid at North Curry Court for the fine of the Ch House 2/6
Pd for entrance money for the bargin at Wells at Mr. Pain's offices 1/- Pd for the fees of ye bargin at North Curry Court when the bargin was made 14/6
for my journey and expences and horse hire at Curry and Wells and drawing the petion and geting hands to it . . . 1 0 0

1738. Will Warren about a woman that was like to Ly in at his house . .	0	2	0
when I went to see for Champion at Nap .		1	4
for the Hospitall money	0	5	0
expenses for the Tithing man . . .	0	1	0
In expenses at North Curry to enquire concerning ye Poore at ye work house .	0	8	0
1739. Paid for a pair of shoes for Ned Cox .	00	03	10
for half a pound of sparabils to put in m .	00	00	03

Bought a peneth of thred to mend Coxes Coat	00	00	01
When Ann Pocock was found dead pd ye Crowners fees and Certificate . .	1	1	0
for my journey to Crookhorn and expenses .	0	7	6
for bread and chees and sider to John Haines .	00	02	02
pd ye women for waking and puting her in Cofin	00	02	06
pd for sider when we brought her to Church house	00	01	00
and for making ye grave and ye coffin in all .	00	08	00
1740. paid for lyquor when John Collard died	00	01	6
paid for wool to put into ye Coffin . .	00	03	00
pd John owens to redeem his sive and hook .	00	02	00
gave Jane Owens to buy some beans in Taunton	00	03	00
for eatabels and drink to ye stretching out of Nell Palmer	0	1	4
for stretching her out (laying out) . .	0	1	0
for wool for her	0	1	0
for a coffin for her	0	8	0
for a after daved for her (affidavit) . .	0	0	6
for making ye grave and Ringing the bell .	0	2	0
for eatabels and drink at her burying . .	0	3	6
gave Ann Kates in distress . .		1	0
pd for Licenc and marrying of Ann Kates .	1	12	6
for a ring for her	0	0	4
expenses at the weedin	0	5	0
gave in money with her	0	10	6
1741. Mary Puldmand when she Lyead in .		2	2
Mary Puldmand two loves . . .		1	0
Mary Puldmand when she was churched for ale bread and Chese to Thos. Puld . .		2	6
for a lolft of bread for mary Puldma: . .			6
pd the minister when she was churched .			6
for dieating of bud 30 weeks at 1/6 per week .	2	5	0
for ye stratching out Ann Poke . .		1	0
for met and drinkle wool bell and grave .		5	6
1757. Sarah Avis for wakeing with Margaret Brient and laying her out . . .		1	6
pd for Bred and Chees and wool and bran when put in to the cofin		1	9
pd dame Lea for Margaret Brien bideing (sitting up) and for they that waked and laid her out and for they that cared her to Church	0	6	0
James Gatchel for her cofin . . .	0	8	0

Parish Book No. II. 1746 to 1767.

1746. Pd The Docter for setting Jn° Harmans Leg	0	7	6
A Coffin for Jane Briant		8	0
bran and wool for her		1	0
stritching her out		1	0
for lycens for Mary Palman	1	3	6
for her marridge and expences	1	5	

(Curate Wm. Sealy Strangways).

1750. for horshier to ride to Stoke for the person to bury Watermans wife	00	00	06

1753. for John Hain for 4 yds of Everlasting	0	5	0
for a bushell of wheat for John Hain	0	5	0
for cureing Morgans maids leg	0	15	0
paid for six Bages for the poore	0	1	1

1754. for expense at Burrow Bridge when the Churchward and I was warned there	0	2	0
Mr. Burridge towards the Bridge	6	6	0

1755. Mr. Burridge concerning the Bridge	3	14	0

1757. Paid Mrs. Poke for curing John Huins and Wifes Legs	0	05	03
for ointment for Richard Pokes Leg	0	0	8

1758. Pd Dr. Bridge as by his bill for curing John Huins legs	1	14	0

1759. Its agreed by the Parishn^rs that Mr. Josiah Crocker Bridge be paid 2½ guineas for the care of John Stroud lately deceased when his leg was broken.

1761. Thomas Virgin for a slaye (? sledge) for the Parish	0	03	03
for ointment for Betty Tuckers ledges (legs)	0	00	06

1762. John Watkins conserning his Legg	0	01	00

1763. Paid to Stanmoors Bridge		14	7
Expense at Taphouse conserning a woman which came there to lie in	0	1	0
Jas Savage what he laid out in Repairing the roads	0	10	6

1764. Pd to Esq. Burridge for discharging the Indightment of the Roads . . .	20	0	0
1765. Pd for a pair of wreathen gloves for John Watkins	0	1	2
1766. Paid William Dunster by consent of a vestry to have his shoes amended . .	0	0	6
Doctor Bridges bill for John Watkins . .	3	3	0
The stritching out of Mary Watkins . .	0	3	0
paid for bread and chees, drink and bran .	0	1	6
1745. Expense to putt George Wooed out of ye Parish	00	03	00
1767. William Dunster a brin shart four yeards att eleven pence yeard and maken .		4	0
for a paint of toadey (?)	0	0	6
for minding of Susanar Tillers Hous . .	0	0	8

Parish Book No. 3. 1768 to 1789.

The amount given in regular poor relief in West Hatch about this time is . . .	26	2	6
Casual and other charges . . .	22	2	1
(a 1/- rate £22 5 2, and a 1/6 rate £33 7 9)[1]	£48	4	7
1768. John Bradbeere for carrying Elizabeth Nicholls to Portsmouth . . .	1	7	0
paid towards the enditements of the roads .	6	0	0
for a letter from Portsmouth . . .	0	0	4½
pd Docter Bridge for setting John Hains Collerbone		10	6
1769. For two men and horses going to Wells to Lodge the pertition with the Bishop and from coming from Wells to Challetton to Mr. Stranguays and then Mr. Stranguaye and we went back to Wells again to Mr. Tuceon to put him into court and for horse iren and expences four days and three nights	2	9	6

1. 1900. A 1d. rate is now £5 18s. 8½d., and a 1s. rate is £71 11s. 6d.

Mr. Southey for taking instructions how to draw the pertition		3	4
Gave Mr. Warren to draw the pertition		6	8
Carrying to *Ilebishops.*			
For horse iron and myself going to attend the people eight times		8	0
1770. For going to Taunton with Philpott to sweyar a base child and next day to Curry Mallett and for taking him up and keeping in custody on day and a night and marrying him	2	2	6
1772. Pd for Indightment of Highways	4		
Pd for a respite for Do.	1	12	10
for an appeal against Compton Dundon	5	9	10
Laid out on Roads	4	7	1½
for cost about Inditment	8	11	9
1773. pd ye Surveyor of the Highways	7	6	3½
pd for a Botel of Dafes Elector (Daffy's Elixir) for Betty Harmane		1	0
for a blinket for John Briant		6	3
Total expended in the year	59	18	0
The whole expenses concerning Wm. Rowill.			
Taking her exam and taking him up and keeping him in custody and carrying him to Prison	1	6	1
going to Taunton to take his exam		3	2
Do Do		2	
the expense of guard to take him out of prison and exam		5	5
Going to Taunton to take out Licence		3	6½
Licence and Marriage and fees of goal and close and other expence	3	15	10½
for taking his exam after marriage at Taunton the orders and other expences		11	10½
Expences carrying home Wm. Rowell and his wife from the P. of W. Hatch to Holsworthy	1	18	5
for horce hire about William Rowell	1	7	0
for Henry Cooks and Joseph Turners going about Rowell	1	0	0
	10	13	4
for a Bottle of Daffy for Jane Ralls maid 1/-			
1775. for a loaf of Bread	0	0	7
for a pair of Pothangers Jeny Ball	0	0	10
1766. Paid Mrs. Cogan for cureing Joan Morgans breast		3	0

pd for a turn for Jane Ball					0	4	0
1780. For oaten doust and filling the Bed and pillow					0	1	6
for curing the Itch for rugs children and Haymans children					0	1	0
towards Standmoors Bridge						11	8
Pd for things for Sarah Vickery when she was sick pd for Ale 6d, for bread 8d, for 3 pound of chees 7d.							
for half a pound of sugar and trakel					0	0	7
Thomas Murless towards a substitute in the Militia					2	10	0
1782. For doutean (extinguishing) of fiear at the Church house wen on fiear					0	1	6
1782. Paid in regular relief			44	6	7½		
Do. Extraordinary do.			26	5	5½		
			£70	12	1		
Martha Cridge to pay the Doctor for dressing her Daughters leg						1	0
Horse and turnpike to the Doctor						0	8
Mrs. Coggans bill for curing Bryants leg					0	7	6
Sarah Nicholls in distress						1	0
Expenses taking Robt. Sweeting and keeping him to tap house expenses going to Curry Mallett with Robt Sweeting and back to tap house from thence to Taunton to Justices the mittimas ang going to Goal with him						9	0
pd a guard with R. S. their attendance						5	0
pd for puting in the Banns at Wilton						2	0
Gave Sarah Nicholls to pay her Lodgings at Wilton						1	0
Sarah Nicholls in distress						1	0
Expenses with R. S. in taking him out of goal and marriage and the Ch Warden and overseers to go to Wilton to see them married					1	7	0
1783. due to me from the Surveyors of Highways for half a hundred of Wallet for the Roads						2	6
Hannah Lock above her pay in lying in						5	0
pd the Nurse for looking after do.						6	0
pd the midwife for do.						2	6
1785. Expense and horshier at Counsillor Popham at Bagbur and at Counsler Barnard at Crocomb						7	6

1786. Gave Robert Sweet towards the Building of an house		5	0
Bot 2 yds and ½ of Linsiwoolsy at 1/1 per yd to make Nell Cridge a coat		2	8½
Bot 3½ yds of breen at 1/- per yd for a shurt for John Winter		3	6
Pd for making the same		0	5
for a spill wherrew (?) and string for the same		0	2
for a dish, spoon pot and platter for Do.	0	0	6½
1787. for mending Ediath Shepperds Turn	0	1	0
paid John Davie for Thos Vickery entrance money to learn ye fidle	0	10	6
gave Thomas Vickery in Distress	0	3	0
and for a pair of gloves and a hook	0	3	0

Parish Book No. 4. 1789 to 1810.

1789. for a shirt for John Morgan		2	4
for cleaning him of the lise		1	0
gave Thos. Vickrey when his wife lien in		2	0
the County Stock	1	8	0
Thos Vickrey for righting his Bisgue		1	0
Extoronary Disbursments	20	12	0
Weekly pay days	37	12	6
	58	4	6

By an 1/6 rate	33	5	10½
By another do.	33	5	10½
Recd with the book	01	15	
	68	6	9

1790. Paid for a speening turn for Abram Goodlands maid	0	2	6
paid for a warrant to take up William for a base child	0	2	0
also paid Jacob Smith on gard 2 days and half	0	2	6
Expences same day	0	0	11
and Jonathan Cousins half a day	0	0	6
Expences for five men to try to take up William Harman	0	4	9
paid for Lishons to marry William Hayman to his wife	2	2	0
pad ye minister and clark for marrying of them	0	15	6

ye wedding ring		0	1
also paid ye expences of the guard for meat drink and lodging three days and nights	1	16	1
Taking of him and 3 days on the Gard		16	6
Turnpike and hay for ye mare and Mrs. Bennet to Testify consent for marridge		1	4
total	6	2	2
Thomas Vickery for his children Scurvey heads	0	3	0
1792. pd Jane ole for curing of Thos. Vickery children seur heads	3	13	6
pd for a paire of horse leather gloves for Thos. Vickery		2	3
1793. Pd Mary Ceets for puting Sal Vickery to Beead		2	6
for expences going to Dr. Crossman 4 times	0	5	0
By 3 1/6 rates 99 17 7½			
pd for an extaordinary Coffin for Jan Ball	0	10	0
pd for the Navey	0	3	0
1795, July 5. pd for a spechal warrant for Mary Curry for intruding on the Parish after carrying home by an order	0	2	0
pd Mr Bowers bill that was due the last year towards geting a man for the navey	7	15	3
pd the expense at taphouse[1] for self and three other men when by a warrant we was obliged to see if we could find any idle loos man in the Parish by virtue of which we took up John Wadham in order to see if he would take care of his family or what he mean to do		3	0
John Wadham for a sive	0	5	0
for John Wadmans signment	0	18	0
pd Mr. Garnseys bill for delivering Hannah Nicholls	1	1	0
1796. pd towards a man to sarve the Kings Navy	3	14	9
Mary Goodland to buy two potts	0	0	6
1799. for a spinning Turn for Sarah Sweeting	0	6	0
Constant pay	43	10	6
Extraordinaries	48	6	9
total	91	17	3

By an 1/6 rate. Do. 2/6 rate.

1. The taphouse was the old "Griffin" Inn.

May 31. the expense when Goodland broke his leg		3	6
June 29. AB Goodland when he came out of bed		1	0
The Doctor for setting AB Goodlands leg	2	2	0
For a pound and Half of Mutton for Satterleys wife			9
Laid out in Extraordinarys	67	8	1
Constant pay	63	1	6
(a 2/- rate a 2/- rate a 2/6 rate)	130	9	7
1800. pd for Curry Moors wall	1	1	0
Bot a lofe of Bread for Vickerys Childn		1	6
Pound of Bacon for Do.			10
Half a bag of Taters Do.		4	6
To Peck of Barley Do. and grinding the same		6	9
Half a bag of Taters		6	0
A bottel of Daftery Lictery (Daffy's Elixir) for Ab Goodlan		2	0
for to pound of flowr		0	6
pd Ann Wooden for the eitch		1	0
1801. Boat a Madick for Jan Morgan		1	6
Boat a Peckex for har Nicholas		3	9
Bot 22 Bags of pertaters at 9/- per Bag	9	18	0
Bot 10 Bags of Do at 10/6 Do	5	5	0
Bot a Bushel of Barley at		13	6
Bot 7 Do at 15/6	5	8	0
Bot 4 Do at 15/6	3	2	
Do for my plow labour for drawing the pertaters and Barley	2	2	0
	124	11	7
Total disburstead	197	9	1
By two rates at 3/- By 2 Do at 2/6 in all	252	9	5
Due to the Parish	55	0	4
myself for Bying Bordley and Peters (Barley and Potatoes)	0	5	0
Paid Mr. Pinchard ye Attorney	1	3	6
Laid out for a Bushel of Oats	0	5	6
1802. A Sailler with a pass		3	0
1803. John Yard Milita money	8	8	0
John Aplin the Millitia money	8	8	0
Mr. Pinchard for letter concerning the Reeves Meat		7	0

the same time for myself for going to the Parish to get it executed		3	0
Paid for a new pacax for Hannah Gregory to dig flents with		2	6
1805. Paid for too Bottles of Stofe for Thomas Vickers Legg		2	0
Paid for Wm. Curry a new Cover Lead to put on his Bead		6	6
Paid Mr. Hurman for the fine Due from the Parish for not able to gate a man	3	10	0
Paid for a Wood Hook and a peare of Heging Gloves for Bengy Reage		4	6
Paid for six yards of shrouding for Mary Morgan and her child	0	6	0
Paid Mary Morgan and Mary Linton for taking the after Davey that Mary Morgan and her child was not berred in no other thing then wooling	0	2	0
paid Mary Keates for puting Mary Morgan to bead		2	0
1807. The Collectors of the property Tax	2	2	0
Mr. Welch (Taunton) for delivering Rachael Bailey	1	1	0
going to Taunton to take their *after David*		2	6
Myself and Ch Wns going to Taunton to *Mr. Trenchard*		3	10
Thomas Juell the Millitia Money	10	0	0
for a lincey apern for Sar Wodham		2	3
1808. At Easter Meeting at Tap House		15	0
for Two Quarters County Stock	3	15	0
for 4 yards of Calyco at 1/-		4	0
1809. pd Mr. J. Dare the proportion of £8 for the Parish of West Hatch for the repairing *Stanmoor Bridge*		11	8

Parish Book, No. V. 1810 to 1820.

1811. Robert Cousins the Millitia money	15	15	0
myself takin down the inhabetence		7	6
for a Blanket		9	9
1812. Pd Ann Keates for herself and children while her husband was serving in the *Lokel*		7	6

John Hardwill the Millitia money and expence					16	5 6
for the two Lokel men					4	4 0
for too days worke for the Lokel men . .					0	4 0
Extras .		98	11			
Constant pay .		109	9	6		
total .		208	0	6		
1813. Betty Vickery for hogslade . .					0	0 9
Pd for Beads head and Bead and Cord and Bolster old Balcat and too Cheers . .					1	2 0
for two women for laying out Mary Wadham .						1 0
for the shroud 5/6 Mr. Binchard for the orders					5/6	
for bran for her coffing 1/6 for flix seed flour					1/-	
for the coffing 18/- for the berring expences					3/-	
Mr. Welch Bill £2 8 6 for diging the grave					2/6	
Expences attending the Death of John Cousins for myself and horse two days journey for the Coroner					1	0 0
for Bread and Chees and Beer for the laying out of John Cousens and for the Berring .						5 0
for twelve Jurey for touching the death etc. .						8
pd Abraham Goodland for going to Taunton with complaint against the overseer .						1 0
Expenses the same time for myself . .						2 6
1816. Mr. James paid the Doctor out of his rate					6	14 9
Mr. Smith likewise paid Do Do .					1	16 6
1817, March 24. Paid *Dockter Mead* . .					5	5 6
Mr. James paid Dockter Welsh . . .					4	11 6
Mary Curry for learning the Gloving . .					0	10 0
1818. The County Stock . . .					8	15 0
1820. Doctr Dyiers bill about C. Burnards Legg					8	8
Docter Meads bill					4	10 6

1818, March 24. Agreed with the Parish of West Hatch to attend the Paupers of the Said Parish for a year at the sum of four pounds, Midwifery, fractures, operative Surgery and inoculation excepted. Robt Meade.

Same entry for 1819 and 1820.

At a vestry meeting held the same date it was agreed that the overseers of the poor shall have £5 a year for doing the said office for the time to come.

Parish Book, No. VI. 1820 to 1836.

1820. Received by Rates . . .	245	17	6
Disbursments .	188	2	2
for a hundred of Cole for Ann Wadham .		1	2
pd one Pound two shillings towards the rights of common	1	2	0
Mr. Meads Salary	4	0	0
Dº Wadhams bill	5	2	9
Dº for attending too women in labour . .	1	1	0
Received by Rates etc . . .	207	4	5½
Paid	202	7	5½
1822.			
Received by Rates etc . . .	173	2	1½
Disbursments . . .	152	18	4
due to the Book . .	20	3	9½

After being signed and allowed by Vestry.

We disapprove of the above accts the overseers having charged Five Pounds for exercising their overseership.

John House
Jacob Smith

Also—Taunton 26 March 1823.

The above account having been verified on oath before us is allowed except the charge for serving the office amounting to Five Pounds which we disallow.

Webb Stone
Chs Anderdon.

1824. 10 Hundred of Coal for the Poor House		10	0
Carrage and turnpack		3	9
paid Mr. Langdon in advance for cleaning the Clithe in West Sedgmoor . . .	1	0	0
By Cash to Mr. Marchant . . .	5	5	0
1826. Mr. Meads bill concerning John Ball and Wife with the Parish of St Laurence Reading	6	18	0
1831. for taking the Count of population .		12	6
1832. Paid for letter concerning reform .		1	2
Paid for a letter concerning voting . .		1	0
Paid for a letter from House of Commons .			2
Paid John Linton for Constables Staffs . .		4	0

1834.	Paid expenses at the Griffin (usually mentioned taphouse).	15	0
	For the Poor Act expence	5	0
1837, June 29th	For a proclamation	2	6
July 9th	the Sexen for tolling the Beel for the King		
1840-41.	Paid for Prayers for the Queen	5	0
	Do for Prince Albert		
1857, March 21.	Base viel Boo	2	0

From old Book. West Hatch procession for viewing the bounds of the Parish was May 7th 1719 About 15 miles in circuit. Ezra Pierce, Vicar.

The accounts of each of the three parishes for the latter part of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth are very instructive, showing as they do the heavy poor rates on account of the excessive amount of pauperism. Each parish had its "workhouse," which term was to a great extent a correct description. It will be seen from the Stoke St. Gregory accounts that the manager was to have the benefit of the labour of the inmates as part payment. The tendency of modern legislation is tending more and more to make the so-called "workhouse" a hospital, an asylum or almshouse, and a school. The vast majority of present day adult paupers, both in and out of the house, are suffering from some mental or physical disease, and are a very different class from the idle or thriftless ones who contributed to increase the poor rates of the early part of the century.

The bad system of poor-law relief, together with bad laws relating to removal, caused the utter demoralisation of the poorer classes. These causes were combined with the enormous increase in the price of provisions, in consequence of the tedious wars in which we were engaged, and causing a condition almost of famine.

Statistics for this period show the enormous amount of pauperism existing. Returns called for by parliament in 1801, show that out of a population of

9,000,000, no fewer than 1,000,000 were paupers, therefore 12 per cent. were burdens on the state. How heavy the burden on the ratepayers was, may be judged by the fact that in the year 1811, the relief of the poor cost no less than 17*s.* 6d. per head of the population, whereas to-day the cost is 7*s.* 2¼*d.* per head. Enormous as this expenditure appears to be, we see very little provision made for illness, if we observe in the accounts the small sums paid by each parish to the "docter," and sometimes even to old women, also to the parson for medical attendance, and the parson's wife. Even after the passing of the Poor Law Reform Bill, 1837, out of an expenditure of £4,600,026, upwards of £254,000 was wasted upon the law of settlement and removal, and only £147,000 was spent on medical relief; so that £100,000 more was expended on useless law costs, and often cruel and dangerous removal of sick and sometimes dying paupers, than was spent in medical relief.

Section VII.

The Parish. What is it? Who are its officers? What are their duties?

THE parish records contain so many references to the parish officers and their duties, and these duties have been from time to time so varied, that it will be well to trace from the earliest dates the origin of parish government, the various parish officers, and what their duties were. This is more necessary, as the offices have changed, together with the duties attaching to them.

The Parish is universal throughout the kingdom, as the original *secular* division of the land, made for the administration of justice, keeping of the peace, collection of taxes, proper keeping of highways, water courses, the maintenance of those unable to support themselves, and other purposes incidental to civil government and local well-being. There were by no means churches or priests in every parish. These were of much later introduction, but the parish was the natural territorial division to which churches were allotted when the piety of the wealthy led them to build and endow them. The division of land into hundreds is of great antiquity, and the hundreds into tythings: the name "tythingman" remaining long in use, and still remaining in some places. The name "tything" gave way to that of town, parish, or vill, terms commonly used to express the same thing. There is also the name "hamlet," given as an integral part of a parish. The word "ham" was used in some places instead of town, but having the same meaning; hence some places have the ending "tun" or "ton,"

others have the ending "ham"; the subdivision of the last is expressed by the diminutive "hamlet."

In the earliest records of the proceedings of parliament, we find parishes treated as the integral subdivisions of the hundred. Through the parishes the public taxes were assessed and collected. Under date A.D. 1297[1] it is ordered by parliament that in each parish four men shall be chosen by the parishioners, who shall return the assessment of the parish to the shire authorities, and to prevent any wrong being done, the authorities of the shire shall afterwards go from hundred to hundred and parish to parish, to hear any complaints and correct any errors in the assessment. This practice was also in accordance with laws compiled in the time of Henry I (A.D. 1100). It was declared that a jury of twelve men from each *hundred* shall deliver to the assessors of each shire their assessment; and that in order to do this, each jury shall take to itself four men from each parish in the hundred, with the provost (reeve) of each parish, to enable it to make return of the parish, which four and the provost shall in each case give aid to the hundred jury upon oath. A simple and complete mode of local self-government, showing that the parish was an integral part of the hundred centuries ago, and that it formed the basis for the secular matter of national taxation. The names of the juries of most of the hundreds and parishes are contained in this invaluable record, and show that the affairs of every parish were in the hands of the inhabitants. Ecclesiastical authorities have been very anxious to make it appear that parishes took their rise from ecclesiastical arrangements, but these facts show its *secular* origin. That many parishes are called by the names of saints is no argument, as in the domesday record no such names occur. The description is simply the hundred and the parish.

As a means of fulfilling the obligations of a parish, the common law recognizes the power to make *ordinances* or *bye*[2]*-laws* for the reparation of the church, or

1. See King's Tenth, p. 8.
2. "Bye" meaning place.

a highway or bridges, or any such thing, which is for the greatest good of the public, and in such case the greater part shall bind the whole. This is the principle of all rating. None but parliament can impose a tax, but the greater part of the parish could make a bye-law; and for this purpose they were a corporation. Due warning to consider the subject of any such bye-law must be given, and all are bound by the vote of the majority present. The assembly of the parishioners for the purpose of making bye-laws or holding discussions is usually known in our time by the name of *The Vestry*. It was formerly known by the name of parish meeting, convocation, convention, etc., of the parishioners.

On account of the weekly gathering of all in the church, the custom grew up for notice of the parish meeting being always given in the middle of the service; and the custom further was, until the close of the last century, to hold the meeting on the Sunday, after church. An act of 13 and 14 Vict., cap. 57, proclaims this practice and custom to be a "scandal to religion." The affected purism of the present day declined to recognize the obvious convenience of oral notice and transaction of parish business, when men's minds were imbued with religious and neighbourly feelings, so that now the new and imperfect method of a written notice is kept, which may not catch the eye; consequently the attendance on vestries was injuriously affected. The constable used to be the proper person to summon all such meetings, but the position of the principal parish officer, in which character the constable was summoner, has long been filled by the churchwardens, one or both of whom could sign the notice of meeting. Certain vestries, on some matters relating to highways, could be summoned by the highway surveyor.

It is usual in some country districts that the church bell should sound for some time before the meeting. This was anciently the universally necessary mode of summons. It is called the mote-bell (mote, *i.e.* moot, discussion). Such meetings were commonly called "folk-motes," that is meetings of the folk to deliberate;

there was the shire-mote, the hundred-mote (now halimote), as well as the parish-mote.

The stake a man has in his country or in his parish is not to be measured by his hoarded wealth. It is best measured by the energy expended, and that has to be expended, either by hand or head, in obtaining the means of living. The common law fixed the test at a year and a day's residence. It is the business of the proper officers to take care that every man occupying within the parish is on the parish books. He is there as a responsible man. He comes under obligations to contribute to all local rates and other burthens. Being there, he is a parishioner, and has a common right to a voice at every meeting of parishioners. Ratepaying was not the test, but occupancy.

The Parish Officers.—Churchwardens. The officer of the parish reckoned to fill the leading position was at one time called provost or reeve, at another, constable, tythingman, head-borough or borsholder (hence probably the slang term "boss"). Until very recently, the churchwardens have had, as a general rule, this conventional precedence.

By the statute of 27 Henry VIII, cap. 25, churchwardens of parishes rank co-equally with mayors, governors, and head officers of every city, borough, and town corporate. The office was one of much responsibility, and therefore the most important men were chosen. The churchwardens were never ecclesiastical officers, but temporal officers chosen by the laymen of the parish to take charge of temporal estate. "Wardens of the goods" pertaining to the church, is the designation given in rolls of parliament as early as A.D. 1341. An encroachment has been made since the time of the Reformation to take the election of one churchwarden out of the "temporal estate," and to make the office a donative of the parson. Custom has given a sanction to this, but it is not in accordance with the common law. This change took place by a canon of convocation in 1603. It has been pronounced by leading legal opinions that the choice of churchwardens by common right rests with the parish-

ioners, and if the incumbent chooses one in any place it is but by usage. One duty of the churchwardens is annually to give answers to articles of enquiry, whether the parson has fulfilled his duties to the parishioners. This is a fit duty for the representatives of the parish, but not for the parson's nominee. Old minute books, before the date of the canon, prove the practice of the parishioners having the choice of *both* the churchwardens. Quotations from articles of visitation which have to be answered by the churchwardens, will show how the minister is responsible to the representatives of the "temporal estate."

The following by bishop Gibson when archdeacon in 1713:

Is your minister a person of sober, unblamable, and exemplary life?

Doth he preach constantly every Sunday, unless hindered by sickness, etc.?

Is he careful in visiting the sick, etc.?

The following from the articles of Mountaign, bishop of Norwich in 1638, show how it is the duty of the churchwardens to watch on behalf of the parish the conduct of the minister. The quaintness of the language is amusing:

"Doth your minister or curate serve any more cures than one? If so, how far are they distant asunder? Can he do it conveniently?

"For his person and deportment,—Is he staid, grave, humble, modest, peaceably and religiously disposed? Is he of honest life and conversation in the world? Doth he endeavour to do his best to accord and keep his parishioners in peace, and to take up and compound differences among his neighbours, according to solemn promise at his ordination?

"Or is he a babbler, brawler, contentious, seditious party; a tavern haunter, an ale-house haunter, a drunkard using unlawful and forbidden games? Is he riotous and unseemly in his apparel beyond his means; not fitting his calling, above his degree in schools; contrary to the statute of this land?

"More particularly, doth he commonly go in silk, satin, velvet, plush,—being haply but a curate? Are

his clothes rather horseman's coats and riding jacket's than priests' cloaks? Doth he wear long shaggy hair, deep ruffs, falling bands down to his shoulders; or useth he other indecent apparel rather fitting a swaggerer than a priest?"

Amongst the articles issued by archbishop Cranmer (1548), enquiries are ordered to be made:

"Whether they be resident upon their benefices and keep hospitality or no; and if they be absent and keep no hospitality, whether they make due distribution among the poor parishioners or not?

"Whether they have opened and declared unto you the true use of ceremonies, etc.?

"Whether they have taught and declared to their parishioners that they may with safe and quiet conscience, in the time of harvest, labour upon the holy and festival days; and if superstitiously they abstain from working upon those days, that then they do grievously offend and displease God?"

Also by bishop Ridley, A D. 1550:

"Whether your curates and ministers be of that conversation of living that worthily they can be reprehended of no man?" And numerous other questions of a like kind.

The answers to such articles of enquiry show that the churchwardens' office was not of an ecclesiastical character, but one belonging to the laity, to secure that the ministers of religion fulfilled the duties of their position.

There is scarcely a matter connected with the welfare of a parish in secular affairs, in which the churchwardens had not important functions to perform. They were overseers of the poor by virtue of their office. They had particular duties under various statutes, such as watching and lighting, drainage, water supply, burial grounds, etc. They were, in short, recognized by custom and the legislature as the head authorities and representatives of the parish in all secular matters affecting the common obligations and common welfare of all parishes. The churchwardens had land and other property vested in them; it was their duty to see to the due administration of

charitable bequests. They were entitled to the possession of all parish books, and all papers and deeds belonging to the parish. They were indeed the chief secular officers of the parish, and its representatives in general external relations. "The position is a truly honourable one; the more honourable that it calls for intelligence, and a sense of independence and public duty, and involves a true responsibility.

"Responsibility well fulfilled is the highest test of a man's worth and dignity. When that responsibility involves what concerns the common good of those among whom a man lives as neighbours, and which common good the latter have by their choice of him given him the position and opportunity to promote, the honourable ambition of a good man will find ample field for its best exercise."

Recent legislation has, however, by curtailing the duties of the churchwarden, made him more essentially a *church officer*.

Surveyor of Highways. The office next to that of the churchwarden, as concerns the welfare of the parish, is that of surveyor of highways, or waywarden. This office does not depend on any late legislation. The maintenance of common highways, both by land and water, has from the earliest times, in England, been an inexorable requisition of the law, and this has always been an obligation on the parish. Indeed, the making of a bye-law for a highway rate is of much more ancient and common practice than that of a rate for keeping up the fabric of the church. Practically speaking, it was the constable's duty to see that the conditions of their tenure was fulfilled by the holders of land; and it was his duty to present any defaults to the court leet; and the bounden duty of the court leet to enquire regularly and periodically "if there were any ways, waters, ditches, or paths obstructed, narrowed, or stopped, or turned out of the right course to a wrong course, unto the damage of the king's people, etc." If any such mischiefs were found, penalties were imposed.

One of the old Anglo-Saxon laws enjoins, that "a

highway shall be broad enough for two wains to pass each other, with room for the drivers to ply their whips freely, and for sixteen soldiers to ride in harness side by side." By 13 Edw. I, c. 5, it is enjoined "that highways leading from one market town to another shall be enlarged where bushes, woods, or dykes be, so that there be neither dyke, tree, nor bush whereby a man may lurk, to do hurt, within two hundred feet of the one side and two hundred feet of the other side of the way." The same statute enjoins the constable, whose duties have been already mentioned, to make regular returns on the state of the highways.

In 2 and 3 Philip and Mary (A.D. 1555), an act was passed called "the statute for mending the highways," which enacted, "The constables and churchwardens of every parish shall yearly, on Tuesday or Wednesday in Easter week, call together a number of parishioners, and shall then elect and choose two honest persons of the parish to be *Surveyors* and *orderers* for the year of the works for amendment of the highways in their parish."

The constables and churchwardens were the actual authorities in this matter, the chosen surveyors not having a distinct and independent authority. "The constables and churchwardens" are to appoint days for amending the highways, and "openly in the church to give knowledge of the same days." The surveyors are to "order and direct." Every occupier is declared proportionably liable to contribute labour. It is declared that every leet shall enquire of all offences against the statute, and assess fines and "forfitures." If the leets do not fully enquire, the quarter sessions are bound to do it, by a jury. All fines are to be handed to the churchwardens, and the proceeds be bestowed to the highways within the parish. This act was made to last for seven years. It was renewed by 5 Elizabeth, c. 13, for twenty years, with increased powers recognized in the surveyors. By 29 Eliz., c. 5, it was made perpetual. The surveyors are no longer spoken of as acting in the character of clerk of the works under the constable and churchwardens, but are treated as independently responsible officers of the

parish. It was still further felt that to be efficient they must be independent; accordingly in the 13 and 14 Charles II, an act was passed "for enlarging and repairing the highways," whereby "the churchwardens and constables (the churchwardens take the precedence now) of every parish, town, village, or hamlet, upon Monday or Tuesday in Easter week yearly, whereof notice shall be publicly given the Sunday before in the church, with the advice and consent of the *major part* of the inhabitants *which shall be then present*, choose two or more *sufficient* and *able* persons residing and inhabiting within the said parish, to be surveyors of their highways for the year next ensuing." Their powers are enlarged. They may lay an assessment on the parish. They are further to give a perfect account in writing of all moneys received and paid within the year of office. The law as to surveyors of highways has remained substantially the same as thus stated in the act of Charles II, notwithstanding that there have been several acts passed relating to highways; until highway boards were enacted by act of 1863, which has since been superseded by the local government act of 1896, whereby these duties were transferred to the district council.

By an act of William IV, a qualification was imposed, either a real estate of ten pounds a year, personal estate of £100, or occupancy to the value of £20. The older legislation contented itself with suggesting the choice of the *best man*, without regard to the money he might happen to have in his pocket.

There were some cases in which the duty of summoning a meeting of the parish devolved on the surveyor of highways. It was thus when any person sought to dedicate a new road, for the repair of which the parish would, if consent be given, become chargeable, etc. By 2 and 3 P. and M. For the repair of the highway, "every person for every plough land in tillage or pasture he shall occupy, shall send at every day and place appointed, one wain or cart furnished after the custom of the country with oxen, horses, or other cattle, and all other necessaries, and also two able men." By the same act, c. 29, a plough land, so

far as it refers to the repairing of highways, was limited to £50 a year. By 5 Eliz., c. 13, s. 2, the surveyor may take and carry away of the rubbish or smallest broken stones of any quarry within the parish, without licence, etc., of the owner, as much as he shall judge necessary for repairing the ways," "and in default of any quarry, or in default of any rubbish being found there, he may gather stones lying upon any grounds, or may dig for gravel, sand, or cinders where they are likely to be found, but not in anyone's house, garden, orchard, or meadow. (43 Eliz., c. 2).

The workmen "shall bring shovels, picks, mattocks, etc., and shall work eight hours a day" (2 and 3 P. and M.), "and in default of reasonable excuse before justices, to pay for each labourer 1*s.* 6*d.*, for a man and horse 3*s.*, for a cart and two men 10*s.* a day."

By 22 C. II, c. 12, "The surveyor shall appoint six days for the providing stones, gravel, and other materials as aforesaid, and for working in the highways, having respect to the season of the year and the weather, and giving notice publickly some convenient time before the several days."

An old Burn's "Justice of the Peace," (1757), remarks on this subject: "Having gone through the great number of laws relating to highways, I shall add one observation upon the whole which is this: notwithstanding the wisdom of the nation hath been employed for above 200 years in redressing the great evil of bad roads, yet, excepting in some cases where turnpikes have been erected, the roads are as bad now as in the days of Philip and Mary. And the defect is in many places not so much the want of hands, as of proper direction." "But the misfortune is this: although the laws have provided that the surveyors shall be chosen out of the more substantial inhabitants, yet when that is done, scarce one of them in 500 knows how to make a good road, and if he does, his power continues in effect but six days, and his successor probably hath other schemes and notions, and the road is never made the better. Hence it is that when the people assemble to repair the highways (if indeed

they do assemble), they spend their time in divisions, and making bargains, and other idle amusements. And why should they not? They may as well meet and do nothing as work hard to no purpose."

Constables. The choosing its own special officers for keeping of the peace, and holding these officers responsible to it for the discharge of their duties, is one of the most ancient of the functions of that universal institution of local self-government—"the parish." The constabulary arrangements which have existed in England for fourteen hundred years, are based on a very simple but sound view of human nature. That view is that those immediately concerned in the taking care of their own safety and in the protection of their own property, are those most likely to take vigorous means to secure these ends. It has already been seen that the constable was formerly the principal parish officer. The position of the "constable" is not the same as that of "policeman." "The former is the elected officer chosen by men who are themselves mutally responsible, in order to give in his turn, for a term, an immediate attention to the matters connected with this responsibility. The latter is a mere machine of repression set over men to control and watch them, by some external and irresponsible authority." If the man they had thus chosen was neglectful, and crime was committed, and the doer of it remained undiscovered, all were held responsible. They took care, therefore, to choose good men, as, though one man must be at the head, one alone would rarely be enough for the public safety, four or more were always appointed to be constantly under his control.

Thus we have the "provost and four."

The shire and the sheriff, as its head, is responsible for the peace of the whole shire; the hundred and the "chief," or high constable as its head, for that of the hundred; and the parish and its "petty" constable as its head, by whatever name it may be called (tything-man, borsholder, borrow-head, headborough, chief pledge, provost, or reeve) for that of the parish. With-

in the parish the "petty" constable has always had sole authority, and he was always the sole head of peace officers there. The parish constable was formerly, and until a very short time ago, usually chosen by the court leet (chosen thereto by the homage), the local criminal court within each parish. Their attendance at the vestry meeting was required. This mode was only abolished so lately as the statute 5 and 6 Vict. c. 109., s. 21 (A.D. 1842), which itself, indeed, excepts from abolition such functions as are unconnected with the preservation of the peace. For such purposes, therefore, constables must still be appointed as before. The principle of modern legislation appears to have been a distrust of the people instead of confidence in them, and in their good sense of moral and social responsibility. Therefore, by the above-named statute, justices of the peace were practically invested by it for the first time in the history and institutions of England, with irresponsible power in the appointment of constables. A precept was issued by them within the first seven days of February, to the overseers of every parish, requiring them to make out and return before the 24 March, a list of what the justices may please to call, a "competent number" of men within their parishes qualified to serve as constables. The qualification consisted in being resident ratepayers on a rental of at and above £4 a year, and being between twenty-five and fifty-five years old. The overseers were then required to summon a vestry to make out this list. Between the 24 March and 9 April the same justices were to hold a special petty sessions to choose out of the lists so returned, the constables they please. This was a scheme for keeping up the show of choice by the parish without the reality. All interest of the parish in the matter is lost, in the most important practical affair of the maintenance of peace in the neighbourhood. In 1856, an act was passed which made the adoption of the county police system compulsory in every county. But this act did not repeal the parish constables act. The county police may be sent anywhere over the county, under the control of the chief constable, while the parish constables, who

are *unpaid*, are not bound, and cannot be compelled to act beyond the limits of the parish for which they are appointed. Formerly the inhabitants of every place and the constables chosen by them were held fully responsible for every crime committed within their bounds, although the criminal had escaped beyond their bounds.

The necessary means of action and inter-communication were prompt and efficient without any intervening machinery. No justice's warrant was necessary to enable the constable to raise the "hue and cry." The "hue and cry" was part of the law before justices of the peace were first instituted. A good deal might be written on this interesting subject. Practically the modern system of raising the "hue and cry" was that the constable of one place informed the constables of all the adjoining places of the facts and circumstances, and they did the same to those adjoining them, until those implicated were apprehended. If any constable failed where need was, to raise and follow up the hue and cry, he was heavily punishable.

One system of constabulary still exists in England, namely, that of special constables, which is a direct and valuable remain of the ancient system of the responsibility of every inhabitant for "the watch and ward;" the peace and safety of his neighbours. In every case of emergency or tumult by which the public peace is endangered, all householders or other persons residing in a parish may be called on to act as special constables.

Overseers of the Poor. This is an office of a very different character from those we have been considering. It owes its existence and functions to statute only, being quite unknown to the common law. It is not a parish office in the sense in which the churchwardens, surveyors of highways, and constables are such—the functions of all whom have existed in every parish from time immemorial. The parish was always identified with help to the poor, but what its officers had formerly to do, was to see that what had been provided, and what the clergy were bound to devote to

the poor, was properly distributed. This was to be done in the presence of "the churchwardens or some other honest men of the parish," and the alms chest, which formerly stood in every church, was to be in charge of "the churchwardens or any other two honest men to be appointed by the parish from year to year," and to be distributed at convenient times "in the presence of the whole parish or six of them."

In accordance with this: ancient parish records often contain mention of "distributors" chosen by the parish. The "overseer of the poor" is an officer of a different character from the above. The office and functions arise out of a very extraordinary state of circumstances—one which may indeed be truly styled revolutionary. Church endowments were originally intended to fulfil the needs of the modern poor law and taxation. Under cover of the *Reformation* (which will be seen to be not an unmixed benefit), Henry VIII iniquitously seized a vast proportion of what was expressly given in trust for the poor. He got it under false pretences. He gave it to his favourites, in breach of honour, honesty, and his pledged faith. This monstrous pillage of the poor, and gross fraud upon the nation, produced an immediate effect. The real and deserving poor, robbed of what was thus, from of old, set apart to meet their true needs, were flung upon society. Vagrancy had a colourable excuse, and largely increased. A new burden was cast upon the country for the support of the poor as a class. Thenceforth "pauperism" became a caste in England. Numerous acts were passed to meet the state of things arising. The 27 Henry VIII, cap. 25, forbade the giving of alms in money except to the "common fund" or "stock" of the parish. In the same act is found the first suggestion as to overseers. It is enacted that "the churchwardens and two others of every parish of this realm, shall in good and charitable wise take such discreet and convenient order by setting to work and giving help to the feeble, as that in no wise they, nor none of them, be suffered to go openly in begging." The persons thus alluded to were chosen by the parish in vestry, and fulfilled their

charge, subject to the supervision of the parish. This is distinctly proved by ancient parish records still extant. The statute of 39 Eliz. c. 3, which is the foundation of our modern poor-law, enacts "that the churchwardens of every parish, and four substantial householders of the said parish, who shall be nominated yearly in Easter week, under the hand and seal of two or more justices of the peace of the same county, dwelling in or near the same parish, shall be called 'overseers of the poor' of the same parish." In 1691 an act was passed which enforced that overseers were not to have "unlimited power," but that not only in their election, but in their habitual duties, they were to be responsible to the parishes. One exception was made. This was the cause of subsequent abuses in the poor-law. This exception enabled a justice of the peace to order relief. This power could not but be abused. It was giving an uncontrolled power to individuals to spend the money of other people without any responsibility, and without the means of judging which the parishioners possessed. Innumerable and increasing ills arose from this cause. That fine old constitutional principle had been forgotten, which stands recorded on the rolls of parliament of four centuries earlier, that "more trust is to be placed in the opinion of the men of the neighbourhood, than on the bare word of any one man." (Rolls of Parliament, 21 Edw. I, A.D. 1293).

By the measure passed in 1834, known as the Poor Law Amendment Act, instead of the parishes obtaining a more thorough and responsible control over their own officers, all control whatever is taken away. The parish has to pay poor rates, and that is practically nearly all that is left to it in relation to the the matter. It has no sort of control, direct or indirect, over the expenditure or application of the rates, nor over the officers who administer them. There remains now in these cases nothing for the overseers to do, so far as concerns the administration of the affairs of the poor, except to make and keep rate books, to collect the rates, to pay the rates over according to the order of the guardians, or central

board, and to submit their accounts to the auditor of the union.

In case of a body found dead in the parish, the churchwardens and overseers are bound to bury it. Every person applying for a licence to retail beer or cider must have the approval of the overseer. It was their duty to make out lists of parish constables, lists of men qualified and liable to serve on juries, all claims of owners to vote at elections of guardians of the poor, also lists of voters for county and borough elections, etc. The statutes committing these duties to overseers, very properly annex heavy penalties to the unfaithful or negligent discharge of them. If the payment of a salary to any such person be found to be for the common advantage, a bye-law of the vestry is sufficient authority for such a purpose. As the overseers' duties increased, it was found that an *assistant overseer* often became necessary, and the suggestion was made lawful by statute. The salary of such is to be paid as the vestry agree, which shall also require such security as it may see fit for the due fulfilment of the duties of the office. The appointment is not a permanent one. If he be appointed collector of the rates, that appointment is made by the guardians, and paid through the Local Government Board.

Guardians of the Poor. The first officers appointed in immediate connection with the relief of the poor were called "gatherers" and "collectors," inasmuch as they only gathered in what others distributed. The name "Overseers of the Poor" was afterwards adopted. More recent legislators have very ingeniously hit upon the name of "Guardians." The appointment of guardians is identified with the enforced union of several parishes, under one management, for poor-law purposes. This is a system lately introduced, in order to give greater facilities for imposing the functionary system under the poor-law act, 4 and 5 Wm. IV, c. 76. The constitutional principle of open election at a public meeting is abolished. No opportunity is given for question or suggestion. The

guardians only require to be "nominated" in secret, and may be solely in the hands of cliques. All trace of real representation and free choice is eradicated. The votes and returns are subject only to the uncontrolled disposition of the clerk to the guardians. This officer is himself made by these acts wholly independent of his nominal masters. A man may live in a parish all his life without being aware that any election of guardians under this system has ever taken place. This sham was gone through once a year, until by a recent act the office is rendered tenable for three years. The poor-law board had "to determine the number, and prescribe the duties of the guardians," in every union and parish, and to "guide and control" them. It also fixed a qualification as to ratable value. This qualification has now been abolished, and any *resident* may be elected, including females. The guardians are entirely irresponsible. They act, as they are elected, without any check or security existing by which the interests of the parish may be protected. An independent and active spirit in a parish might lead to the guardians being called to account on every occasion of a meeting of the vestry, but no regular means of this are allowed by the doctrinaire system of the new poor-law. Boards of guardians are nominally entrusted with the administration of the relief of the poor, but they have in point of fact no discretion allowed them. Their duties are prescribed by the poor-law board, and they are subject at every turn to the arbitrary orders of the board. They have not the control over their own officers and servants. They may be forced to appoint officers at the bidding of the board, but they can neither dismiss nor continue an officer, nor even choose one, except at its pleasure. The latter also controls both the duties and salaries of every officer. Justices of the Peace were until recently ex-officio guardians. They had no further powers than other members of the board. In the more recent Local Government Act forming the boards of guardians into district councils, they (the J. P.'s) were omitted, and by the same act the highway boards were absorbed into the district council.

Collectors. Few parish officers are of older date than "collectors," dating back to 1371, more than five centuries ago: so ancient is the custom and recognized function of the parish to manage its own affairs. The power of the parish to invest its own chosen collectors with full authority to distrain if necessary is unquestionable, a case in point having been decided by law at the above date.

The name and function of these officers is found recognized in 27 Hen. VIII, c. 25, in reference to moneys appropriated for the poor. Old parish records often contain regular mention of the choice of "collectors" as one of the sets of annually elected officers. They are also frequently mentioned in regard to the collection of the church rates and highway rates. By recent legislation the guardians have now absolute control over the collector, his mode of appointment, salary, functions, tenure of office. Everything else rests with the Local Government Board.

Registrars of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. The importance of registers being kept has long been felt, and they are of great antiquity in many parishes. Those of North Curry began in 1539, and this is not very far from being the earliest date when registers were systematically kept, which was about the year 1500. In 1547, it was enjoined "that the parson, vicar, or curate, and parishioners of every parish within this realm, shall, in their churches and chapels keep *one* book or register, wherein *they* shall write the day and year of every wedding, christening, and burial made within their parish for their time; and so every man succeeding them likewise; and therein shall write every persons name that shall be so wedded, christened, or buried. And for the safe keeping of the same book, the parish shall be bound to provide of their common charges one sure coffer, with two locks and keys, whereof the one shall remain with the parson, vicar, or curate, and the other with the wardens of every parish church or chapel wherein the said book shall be laid up; which book they shall every Sunday take forth, and in the *pres-*

ence of the said wardens, or *one of them*, write and record in the same, all the weddings, christenings, and burials made the whole week before; and that done, to lay up the book in the said coffer as afore. And for every time that the same shall be omitted, the party that shall be the fault thereof shall forfeit to the said church 3*s.* 4*d.*, to be employed to the poor men's box of that parish." (Injunctions of Edward VI.) In the injunction of Elizabeth, the fine is to be employed half to the poor men's box and half towards the repairing of the church; and still later the whole forfeit is to be employed for the reparation of the church. A statute of William III made the keeping of such a register obligatory on the minister of every parish and place. But the statute itself was passed for the grant of a tax to assist in carrying on the war then pending. Later acts have for the most part changed the person of the registrar. The minister still remains the registrar of marriages according to the rites of the Church of England. But special registrars are appointed for the registration of births and deaths, and of other modes of marriage, and of making the ceremony of marriage a civil rite.

Boards of guardians are required to divide the union into districts, subject to the approval of the Registrar General. Superintendent registrars, and district registrars of births and deaths, are to be appointed by the boards of guardians, in obedience to rules and qualifications laid down by the Registrar General. Thus there is no sort of discretion left to the boards of guardians in this any more than in any other matter; while the parishes are altogether treated as incapables.

Sexton. This is rightly a parochial office, because it is in discharge of a common duty, and for the necessary benefit of the living of every community, that burial be provided for the dead.

This officer is always to be chosen by the parishioners in the same way as other parish officers. The salary and fees of the sexton (unless fixed by custom) always depend on the pleasure of the vestry. The

principal duty of the sexton consists in digging and preparing graves. He has also often the duty of keeping the church clean and swept. The sexton usually keeps the keys of the church.

Parish Clerk. The parish clerk was, in the original intention of the office, confined to purposes connected with the service of the church. Since the Reformation certain secular functions have been attached to it. Thus in certain injunctions issued by Henry VIII it is declared that "for as much as the parish clerk, shall not hereafter, go about the parish with his holy water as hath been accustomed; he shall, instead of that labour, accompany the churchwardens and in a book register the names and sum of every man that giveth anything to the poor." Before the Reformation the parish clerk was probably often in holy orders; this being consistent with the more important part which he was called on to fulfil in the service of the Roman Catholic church. The office is now usually, though not exclusively, in the hands of laymen. Whether or not it be so, however, the office itself is a lay and secular one, and not an ecclesiastical one. The choice rests with the vestry. The parish clerk was paid either by annual vote of vestry out of funds at their disposal, by customary fees, or by a special rate made for that purpose.

Vestry Clerk. This office was totally distinct from that of the parish clerk. It was not always a regular appointment in all parishes. In most old minute books of parishes the entries are often found: "Paid A.B. for keeping the books and accounts of the parish for the past year;" or, "for making a fair copy hereof;" or, "for keeping and writing this account." It was more distinctly recognized under the practice of the "select vestry," 59 G. III.

This vestry was a parish committee for the management of the poor, which was to be chosen each year, the minister, churchwardens, and overseers being *ex-officio* members.

The duty and responsibility of every man in regard to his parish. Men sometimes think that in all relations they have to the parish wherein they dwell, their duty consists only in paying certain rates when called for; and even this is done grudgingly. It ought to be a matter of honourable pride and gratulation to any man when called upon to take an active part in the public affairs of his neighbourhood and in the working of the institutions of his country. The fulfilment of this duty ought to be felt by every man to be as imperative an obligation as any claim that life can have. Yet in our time we often hear men base souled enough to complain of being called upon even to serve as jurymen. The true patriot is he who first of all is desirous to find out what his duties are that his country demands of him, and then how he may best perform them.

The law of England has heretofore not only recognized, but very rightly enforced, the mutual responsibility of men in their neighbourhoods. This has been so from the earliest times. Every man formerly was (and still legally is) bound to attend the *Court Leet*; there to help in administering justice between his neighbours. There exists in England now, nothing else that takes the place — that fulfils at all the functions—of the Court Leet. A penalty was formerly and rightly imposed on every man who did not attend the Court Leet of his parish.

The following is an example of the questions regularly put before the sworn jury of freemen of every place, and which had to be everywhere answered: Whether the roll (of inhabitants) is complete. Whether anyone has gone away under any circumstances of suspicion. Whether all on the roll have come up to the folk-mote. Touching burglars, thieves, and robbers, forgers, murderers, house-burners, and the accessories and harbourers of any of these. Touching outlaws and returned convicts. Touching treasure-trove, murders, stolen goods found and kept. Touching gaol-breach, rape, abduction, and wrong doers in parks, burrows, warrens, etc. Touching maimings, assaults, false impressments, and other breaches of the peace.

Touching usurers, traitors, etc., and their harbourers. Touching petty thefts. Touching the hue and cry wrongly raised; or of rightly not followed up; who raised it? and by whose default, suit was not followed up? Touching land-marks broken, removed or altered. Touching water courses turned or obstructed. Touching ditches, walls, water banks, pools or any thing of like sort, meddled with, damaged or otherwise, to any man's hurt. Touching ways and paths wrongfully obstructed or narrowed. Touching false weights and measures. Touching watch and ward not duly kept, and highways not well maintained. Touching bridges and water banks out of repair, etc., etc.

This is an instance of what has existed in England as a definite institution for the prosecution of offences for more than fourteen centuries; and it is these provisions and institutions which have, through all that time, made life and property safer here than in any other country.

Under the act of 43 Eliz. 2., every householder, without exception, was liable to be appointed overseer. Some exceptions have more lately been allowed. The Parish Constables Act declares every man, between twenty-five and fifty-five years old, to be liable to serve, with a limited number of exceptions. Any person who shall not attend and be sworn shall be subject to a penalty of ten pounds, and any person who, having been sworn, shall refuse or neglect to act, to a penalty of five pounds. The Juries Act declares every man between twenty-five and sixty years of age liable to serve, with, as before, a few exceptions, and if any juryman fail to attend, or fail to fulfil his duties, he is liable to a fine, as penalty, as the court shall think fit. The Highway Act declared every person, with again a few exceptions, liable to serve the office of surveyor under a penalty of twenty pounds.

How unequivocally the law has recognized the duty of every man to fulfil that mutual responsibility which each owes to the state, and his own neighbourhood, will thus be clear. But the whole tendency of recent legislation has been to take away from parishes this responsibility in the management of parish affairs.

We have already seen how the poor-law system takes away all the original authority of overseers, and hands it over to boards of guardians, who are themselves without independence and without control over their own servants. The bureaucratic systems of continental despotisms have taken the place of the spirit and practice of the free institutions of England, and have interfered with the liberties and intelligence of men. There is, however, some slight retracing of steps towards local self-government in the recent Parish Council Act, but the powers therein given are so small and limited, that it seems as though the legislature was now afraid to trust the people.

Various Parish Committees. Besides the officers before named, there were in most parishes various committees, viz.: (1) *Committee of Jurats for settling differences.* This was a committee for healing differences among fellow parishioners and was specially effective when the court leet was in full action. (2) *Committee of Assistance.* A committee composed of what was called "passed officers," and who were supposed thus to have had valuable experience. (3) *Synodsmen* or Sidesmen. A part of the later duty of churchwardens was to make presentments, this was formerly done by the sydesmen, who appeared at the synods, or as we now call them, visitations, to give information upon oath concerning the manners of the people [and the parson]. (4) *Committee of Watch and Ward.* This consisted of the "provost and four," or as he was sometimes called, tythingman, headborough, bors-holder, chief-pledge, constable, reeve, etc., names all meaning the same thing—to act on behalf of the whole parish in various matters that the provost had in charge. (5) *Committee of Assessment.* This was the mode by which, originally, the imperial taxation was assessed, and was the way in which the domesday values were obtained in every parish. The name now simply has reference to parish rates. (6) *Committee for raising and distributing Poor Relief.* This consisted of the churchwardens and overseers, when the overseers were

first appointed. (7) *Committee of Audit.* Which name explains itself. (8) *Committee for destruction of Vermin.* There used to be a standing committee in each parish for the destruction of "noyfull fowles and vermyn." This object was formerly felt to be so important, that the practical use of it, already then existing in many parishes, received express sanction by statute. The records are curious and interesting on their own account, from their bearing on the natural history of the country. This custom receives practical illustration, when it is found that legislation has been recently had recourse to for the suppression of the plague of rabbits in Australia. This old established and long active committee was to pay "to every person that shall bring to them any heads of old crows, choughs, or pyes, or rooks taken within the parish, for the heads of every three, a penny ; for the heads of every six young crows, choughs, pyes, or rooks taken, a penny ; and for every six eggs of any of them taken unbroken, a penny, and likewise for every twelve stares (starlings) heads a penny. All which said heads and eggs the said distributors shall keep in some convenient place, and shall every month at least bring forth the same before the churchwardens and the six taxors before mentioned, or three of them, and shall then and there make a true account in writing, what money they have laid forth and paid for such heads and eggs, and for the heads of such other ravenous birds and vermin as are hereafter mentioned ; that is to say, for every head of marten, hawkes, furskite, mold kite, buzzard, shag, coromant, or ringtail, twopence ; and for every two eggs of them a penny ; for every iron (heron) or osprey's head, fourpence ; for the head of every woodwall, pye, jay, raven, or kite, a penny ; for the head of every bird which is called the king's fisher, a penny ; for the head of every bull-finch or other bird that devoureth the blowth (bloom) of fruit, one penny ; for the heads of every fitchewe, polecat, weasel, stote, fayre-bad (fare-bad, *i.e.* bad goer, badger), wild cat, a penny ; for the heads of every otter or hedgehog, twopence ; for the heads of every three rats or twelve mice, one penny ; for

the heads of every moldwarpe or want (mole), a halfpenny; for the heads of every which birds and vermin last mentioned the said distributors shall likewise pay and give to the bringer of them, for every head taken and killed within their several parish as before is limited, and shall keep the same to be showed forth upon their account in manner and form as aforesaid. All which said heads and eggs shall be forthwith after such account made in the presence of the said churchwardens and taxors, or three of them, burned, consumed, or cut in sunder."

(See 24 Hen. VIII, c. 10; 8 Eliz., c. 15; 14 Eliz., c. 11; and 39 Eliz., c. 18.)

The records of parishes show frequent entries made in accordance with these provisions, and no doubt we owe the actual extirpation of some, and the almost extirpation of others of the "pests of the farm," to the action of these parish committees.

There were also other committees, such as: *For holding Land*, *Select Vestry for Poor Relief*, *Inspectors of Lighting and Watching*, *For Baths* and *Wash-houses*, *Public Library and Museum*, *Burial Board*, *Nuisances Removal Committee*, etc. But most of these committees being of comparatively recent date, do not so much concern us in this statement of parish duties.

The Poor. It has been already shown that the new system of bureaucratic legislation has taken out of the hands of the overseers of the poor almost every function which they were originally appointed to perform. Except in cases of "sudden and urgent necessity," they can give no relief; then it must be in kind, not in money. The relieving officers are not appointed by the parish, but by the guardians, and are dependent on the central board. The important matter of the removal of those not having a "settlement" in the parish, for some time remained in the hands of the overseers, but that is now altered.

This matter has been the subject of legislation by numerous acts of parliament. The principle is as old as the establishment of Saxon institutions.

Then every man was compelled to belong to his

tything, and there was "the view of Frankpledge" to see that he was settled there, and the men of each tything were bound to produce any of their numbers when called upon.

An old law recognized the sojourning of forty days in a place, whether as householder, servant, apprentice, or in any other bona-fide manner, to be the test of a man's intention to identify his interest with that place, and therefore as fixing his place of settlement.

There were also other forms of settlement, viz.: by birth, children with parents, by apprenticeship, by service, by marriage, by paying parish rates, by serving a parish office, by renting £10 a year, by a person's own estate.

The statute of 39 Elizabeth is the first wherein the word *settlement* is mentioned.

Afterwards, when the statute of 43 Elizabeth was made, by which every parish was to maintain its own poor, such persons were held to be the poor of any parish as were settled there a convenient time, which was judged to be a month; so that a month's abode made an inhabitant.

Next was the statute 13 and 14 C. II, c. 12, which made the term of residence forty days.

This act says: "Whereas the number of poor within England and Wales is very great and burthensome, and whereas by reason of some defects of the law, poor people are not restrained from going from one parish to another." It is enacted, "that within forty days after any such person shall come to settle in any tenement under £10 a year, two justices may remove them to the place they were last legally settled."

These severe laws led to much litigation between parishes, and expenses frequently occur in the accounts for removals.

The new Poor Law Act of 1834 abolished the gaining of a settlement by hiring and service, or by serving a parish office. This was evidently a great injustice, and gave a man no interest in the parish of his adoption. For where a man is born, he cannot be responsible. For where and how he uses his life he

is responsible. The voluntary act should certainly be looked to rather than the accident of birth. Whoever comes into the parish, comes there because he conceives that the residing there holds out to him some advantages. It suggests the duty to link himself by all interests with the common welfare of the place. Good neighbourship and Christian charity are thus served, instead of an absorbing selfishness being cherished. Whether he resides a short or a long time, every matter of parish management is just as much felt by him during the time he is there.

It is somewhat remarkable that the most authentic records we possess of the earliest working of the arrangements for the relief of the poor, immediately after the passing of the law of Elizabeth, present us with a complete and highly interesting illustration of the *Friendly Society* principle. Among the records of North Curry a fairly complete record will be found, which concerned the mode of dealing with the funds of the poor, under the head of the *Parish Fund*, or *Parish Stock*. By the consent of the vestry, loans were made to those needing it out of the "Parish Stock." If there were not enough of the poorer sort needing loans, some others took larger sums for the time, for each of which loans the person so helped had to find two approved securities. For these loans interest was paid while they were held, the income of which was disposed for the benefit of the absolutely destitute. Thus a double benefit was done; to those who, though not destitute, needed some temporary help; and at the same time to the actually destitute, while an extra stimulus was given to all to fulfil the duties of neighbourship, and to see that others did the same.

Vagrancy. The question of vagrancy was a very important one, and the churchwardens and overseers had various duties to perform. The numerous entries relating to "Travellers with passes," "Seamen," "Soldiers," etc., "having lawful passes," is explained by various acts relating to vagrants, viz.:

22 Henry VIII, c. 12.

1 and 2 Philip and Mary, c. 4.
13 George, c. 23.
17 George II, c. 5.
26 George II, c. 34.
27 George III, c. 11.

Under the Vagrants Act, 17 Geo. II, c. 5, which was a repetition of many older acts, any person *threatening* to run away and leave his wife and children on the parish, was considered an idle and disorderly person, and sent to the house of correction. (2) All persons who unlawfully return to the parish from which they were removed, without bringing a certificate from the parish whereunto they belong. (3) All persons not having wherewith to maintain themselves, live idle, and refuse to work. (4) All persons going from door to door, or placing themselves in the streets or the highways to beg, in the parishes where they dwell. (5) All persons who by wilful neglect permit their wives or children to become chargeable to the parish, or being able to work neglect to do so, or spend their money in ale-houses. These on conviction were deemed idle and disorderly persons, and were sent to the house of correction, and kept to hard labour for a term not exceeding one month. As a reward for apprehending such, the justices might order the overseer to pay to the person apprehending, the sum of 5*s.*, to be paid out of the parish. If they beg *out* of the parish, they were to incur a further degree of guilt, becoming thereby "rogues and vagabonds," for the apprehending of which a sum of 10*s.* was paid by the county. Also under this head were included all persons who run away, and leave their wives and families chargeable, and all persons wandering abroad and begging, pretending to be soldiers, marines, and seafaring men. But this did not extend to soldiers wanting subsistence, having lawful certificates from their officers, or the secretary of war ; or to mariners or seafaring men licensed by some testimonial or writing under the hand and seal of some justice of the peace. But by 32 Geo. III, c. 45, s. 7, the above is repealed ; and all such soldiers and marines wandering about and beg-

ging, shall be deemed rogues and vagabonds within the meaning of the said act, notwithstanding such certificate or testimonial.

As by the 13 and 14 C. II, c. 12, forty days inhabitancy made a settlement, it was also enacted that an exception should be made whereby it was lawful for any person to go into any parish at harvest time or any other time, for work, so that he carry with him a certificate from the minister and one churchwarden and one overseer.

One punishment for rogues and vagabonds was whipping, which was more particularly expressed in former vagrant acts. By the 22 H. 8, c. 12, the vagrant was to be carried to some market town or other place, and there tied to the end of a cart, naked, and beaten with whips throughout such market town 'till his body should be bloody. By the 39 Elizabeth c. 4, he was to be strip'd naked from his middle upwards and openly whip'd 'till his body should be bloody. But no female was to be whipt.

Under the heads of those considered rogues and vagabonds were: (1) Those gathering alms under pretended losses. (2) Collectors of prisons. (3) Fencers. (4) Bearwards. (5) Common players, viz., those who act, or perform any interlude, tragedy, comedy, opera play, farce, or any other entertainment on the stage. (6) Minstrels. (7) Jugglers. (8) All persons pretending to be gypsies, or wandering in the habit or form of Egyptians. (9) Fortune-tellers. (10) Using any subtle crafts. (11) Playing or betting. (12) Running away. (13) Pedlers unlicensed. (14) Persons not giving a good account of themselves. (15) Beggers pretending to be soldiers or seamen, etc. (16) Pretending to go to work in harvest. (17) All beggers. (18) Persons having a picklock key.

Apprentices. In husbandry. By 5 Eliz. c. 4, s. 25. Every person being a householder and having or using half a plough land in tillage, may take an apprentice above the age of ten years and under eighteen, to serve in husbandry 'till twenty-one at the least, or 'till twenty-four, as the parties can agree.

And if any person shall be required by any householder using half a plough land at least in tillage, and shall refuse to be bound, then on complaint of such householder to one justice, he shall send for the person refusing, and if he shall think the said person meet to serve and he refuse, he shall commit him to ward, there to remain until he be contented and will be bound. 5 El., c. 4., s. 35.

Apprentices were bound by deed, which must be indented.

With regard to the binding of poor apprentices, the churchwardens and overseers, or the greater part of them, by the assent of two justices, may bind any poor children whose parents they may judge not able to maintain them to be apprentices, where they shall see convenient, 'till such man child shall come to the age of twenty-four, and such woman child to the age of twenty-one, or marriage. And all persons to whom the overseers shall bind any children as apprentices may take and keep them as such. And if any poor child shall be appointed to be bound, the person to whom he is appointed shall receive and provide for him, and if he refuse to do so he shall forfeit £10 by distress and sale, to the use of the poor. The churchwardens and overseers were to be the proper judges of persons fit to be their masters, and those were all persons who by their profession or manner of living have occasion to keep servants.

A master having been convicted of misusing his apprentice, was not to have another, but to pay a fine not exceeding £10 or less than £5.

Powers were also given to the churchwardens and overseers for the binding of apprentices for sea service, where they were chargeable, or their parents chargeable, or who shall beg for alms. And every master and owner of a ship from thirty to fifty tons burthen was obliged to take one such apprentice, and one more for the next fifty tons after, on the pain of forfeiting £10 to the poor of the parish from whence such boy was bound. The churchwardens and overseers shall give with him 50s. for clothing and bedding. These indentures were to be registered by the collector of customs at the port to which the master belonged.

Protection was given to such apprentice by certificate to the admiralty, to avoid his being impressed for naval service.

The master had power to chastise his apprentice for misbehavour, provided it be done with moderation. Many restrictions were imposed as to illusage, etc., and power was given to the apprentice to summon the master for misusage, refusal of necessary provisions, or other ill-treatment, and to the master to summon any apprentice for misdemeanour or ill behaviour, and on conviction various penalties were imposed on both sides. The system was a good one. The apprentice was generally well treated, and became attached to his master. He lived at his table on good, substantial food, much better than he would have had in his poor home. The term of service made him efficient in all branches of husbandry. Some of the finest specimens of labourers of the past generation, now nearly all gone, had been parish apprentices.

The Church Fabric, Goods, and Pews. Before the period of the Reformation, when, as has been before stated, the church was robbed of its property, special funds were provided for the repair of churches. The custom has since then arisen that the parishioners shall keep the nave in repair. The repair of the chancel is done in most instances by the rector, whether lay or ecclesiastical. By a bye-law of the parish, church rates have been made for the repair of the nave and other purposes.

The purpose of the existence and endowment of parish churches is, that there shall, everywhere, be the *free* means for every man to have the benefit of all the offices of religion. The church is not a building for the service of any *sect*. It embodies the broad fact that there shall be always, and *free to all*, the means and opportunity of man being reminded that he is not made for himself alone, nor to live here for ever. In addition to this, the church itself is the place where, according to ancient custom, the meetings of parishioners for secular purposes was held. And although sentiment has of late years professed to find

some impropriety or even scandal in this course, if we bear in mind the spirit of the "two commandments," no place can be more fitting for men to meet in, to do what is needed towards the fulfilment of their duty to their neighbour, than that, in which they also meet to learn those duties which the former are "like unto."

The freehold of the church belongs to the parson. All the seats, goods, chattels, things, and utensils, whatsoever, within the church, and used either in its services or otherwise, belong to the parishioners, and to them only; even the surplice and robes and the church bells. Ancient inventories clearly show this. The church bells are of much interest in every parish, and from of old great pride has been taken in them. They exist for the exclusive use of the parishioners. Their sound is dear to the earliest recollections of almost everyone, and their music is mixed with the most cherished and happy sympathies of every man of true and simple taste.

Although, as before said, the freehold of the church belongs to the parson, the parishioners have the use of it as a matter of *right*. The free use of the church is the common right of every parishioner. The pews belong exclusively to them, the ordering of which is the duty of the churchwardens. Every man has a right to a seat without any payment. The sale or letting of seats in a parish church, whether by churchwardens or by any other person, is altogether illegal. Propositions have been made for the legalizing of the letting the seats of parish churches. The moment this is done the church will lose every character of an institution as the *church of the people*, and as claiming in that character, reverence, affection, and support from sincere men of all creeds and opinions.

Burial. By the custom of England every person may be buried in the churchyard of the parish where he dies, *without paying anything for breaking the soil.* Though the freehold of the churchyard is also vested in the parson, the parishioners have an absolute and exclusive right to the free use of it for burial; and for the parson to receive any fee for burial is absolutely

illegal. Customs to the contrary have grown up in some parishes, and can be proved to have been begun since the Reformation. Old vestry minute books contain entries on these matters. There are usually charges made for "breaking of ground" for burial in the church. Bodies found lying in a parish, whether cast up by any wreck or any other accident, must be buried by the parish officers.

The Poor Rate. The poor rate is a modern tax laid upon the occupier and enjoyers of property, caused mainly by the misappropriation by others to their own use of that which was originally bestowed for the use of the poor. The statute of Elizabeth intended that *all* property within the parish should be taxed. Stock-in-trade, for instance, ought to be so rated. Since 1840—that is nearly two centuries and a half after the above-named act was passed—it has been discovered that stock-in-trade and other personal property are inconvenient things to tax. The land has, by these late acts, got more than its original share of the burthen. The acts of parliament relating to the poor rate are very numerous. The name of "poor rate" is very unjustifiably and unconstitutionally used to disguise several other rates. In it are now included various items of the county rate, police rate, cost of lunatic asylums, of highways, prosecutions for felony, allowances to constables, population returns, registration of voters, jury lists, expenses of registration and vaccination, the payment of numerous functionaries, etc.; in fact it is a *general purposes rate.*

The Church Rate. The law of making this rate has always been a matter entirely at the pleasure of the parish. Lord Coke, in a certain law case, has laid it down as the clear law of England, that "the inhabitants of a parish, without any (special) custom may make ordinances or bye-laws for the reparation of the church, or a highway, or any such thing, which is for the general good of the public; and in such case the greater part shall bind the whole without any custom."

There was no statute in regard to church rates; but it has always been a rate depending on the pleasure of the vestry. An agitation occurred some few years ago, with some, on the plea that such a rate was an obnoxious impost, and the enforcement upon one man to support another man's religion, against conscience, principle, and justice: with others, without any other idea seeming present than that of getting rid of an impost. An act was therefore passed abolishing church rates. The effect of this is to deprive parishes of a power they once possessed; to fetter their liberty to consider and determine on the mode of spending their own money, and to annihilate their common right in the church itself. The parish church is not the church of a sect. It is the church of the people, free to all, which each has a right to use. And that he possesses the same rights over the churchyard is a matter of plainly direct importance to all, totally irrespective of religious opinions. Every man has the common right to have the opportunity of hearing his bible read in the church, which he feels to be his own, without being tacked on and ticketed to any sect.

It is singular with regard to church rates, that a law should be passed to abolish that which the law never gave. But such is the case.

Parish Records.—Customs, Usages, etc. The sound custom has from the earliest times marked all the local institutions of England, that records should be kept of their proceedings. These records are of unspeakable value. It is through them that we get a thorough insight into the inner life and habits of the people. England possesses these records for a longer time back, and in better preservation, than any other country. Domesday book shows how men in England did their business for themselves more than eight hundred years ago, and is a record of the action of the institutions of local self-government of a free people in almost every county in England. Until recently, no *statute* existed compelling the keeping of the records of vestry meetings and accounts of officers; nevertheless, in most parishes such records exist in a more or

less perfect state of preservation, for centuries past. Those who would understand the nature of the institutions of the parish, whether as a matter of history, or of *parochial precedent* as regards proceedings, must study some of these records. In these there will be seen the very life of England. While political commotions have occurred, and even crowns and kings have been made and unmade, the people of England have gone on with the same earnest determination to do for themselves what concerned themselves.

What was named the "Inquisitiones Nonarum" (1320), which was made for the purposes of imperial taxation more than five hundred years ago, also recorded other facts of interest connected with the history of parishes, the climate, productions, population, etc. The prices of corn are also found. Estimates occur of the value which land, then uncultivated, would have been if the same were cultivated. These enquiries and returns were made by a jury, or "sworn men," chosen by the parish for the purpose. The personal property of different classes was all equally liable to taxation; the merchant being as fully included as the farmer. The returns of townships were revised and confirmed by parishes before being sent sent up, and those of parishes by hundreds. The result of this arrangement was, that the maintaining the necessary relations and responsibilities of the parish to the state, came out of the parishes. There was also another assessment of parishes, named the "taxation of pope Nicholas." This was made A.D. 1290, for ecclesiastical purposes alone, to ascertain the value of tithes then paid to the different churches throughout England. It was carefully made; the firstfruits and tenths out of the value of the benefices, otherwise claimed by the pope, having been granted by him to the king to enable him to carry on the holy wars. This assessment was for a long time used as a convenient datum, a basis for the assessment of the secular taxes. It is obvious that, once the annual value of a tenth being ascertained, the assessment of the annual value of a ninth or a fifteenth derived from the same source was an easy operation. The other assessment

already named, called "Inquisitiones Nonarum," was made A.D. 1340 on this datum.

In direct illustration of the above mode of taxation, there is in existence an historical document published in the Somerset and Dorset *Notes and Queries* for Dec., 1895, by G. E. Weare, and which I have already given (p. 8). It is a document relating to the king's tenth. It shows that the collectors of the North Curry hundred were delinquents, and had to be brought to book; and indicates the mode of action taken.

It is singular, that in neither of these assessments (except in very rare instances), are the names of saints used in the designation of parishes. This is the growth of modern times: for example, in none of the earlier records does the designation "Saint" appear attached to the parish of Stoke St. Gregory. That parish was always, until a recent period, called "Grigory Stok," or "Gregory Stoke," and the name has probably nothing whatever to do with the saint of that name. The earliest date of the "Saint" being added is A.D. 1712.

Our own parish records do not carry us back to the details of taxation just mentioned, but in them will be found many instances to show that, in troublous times, the parish went steadily on with its business; and many glimpses are given of what the people thought of many stirring events. The earliest books are the registers, which date from A.D. 1539. There is a large churchwardens' account and rate book, commencing A.D. 1666. This book is full of most interesting detail, and from it full extracts have been given. Many a curious custom owes its record to the pages of the parish books.

The Church House. There was in most parishes a house called the "Church House," or "Parish House," of which frequent mention is made in the records. The church houses of the three parishes were held by copies from the dean and chapter, and a yearly rent charge was paid in each case. No entry occurs more frequently than large sums being expended in their

repair and maintenance. These houses must, therefore, have been of much importance. In and around them festive gatherings and public games were in most parishes periodically held, which did much to promote good neighbourship and the maintenance of kindly relations. At these gatherings collections were generally made, which went to the "Common Stock" of the parish. These festive meetings were called "Wakes" or "Revels," but most commonly "Ales," as "Church-Ale," "Whitsontyde-Ale," etc.[1] To this house belonged spits, crocks, etc.: utensils for dressing provisions. Here the housekeepers met and were merry, and gave of their charity; the young people were there too, and had dancing, bowling, shooting at butts, etc. This was the "merry" England of old. The earlier customs cherished attachment to the parish, and hindered the growth of those barriers and distinctions between class and class, which are admitted to be one of the worst features of modern society. A good deal might be written on these feasts and merry-makings. I will quote the following lively description from Herrick's *Hesperides:*

"Come, Anthea, let us two
Go to feast, as others do:
Tarts and custards, creams and cakes,
Are the junketts still at wakes;
Unto which the tribes resort,
Where the businesse is the sport:
Morris-dancers thou shalt see,
Marian, too, in pagentrie;
And a mimick to devise
Many grinning properties:
Players there will be, and those
Base in action as in clothes;
Yet with strutting they will please
The incurious villages.
Neer the dying of the day,
There will be a cudgell-play,
Where a coxcomb will be broke,
Ere a good word can be spoke:
But the anger ends all here,
Drencht in ale or drown'd in beere.

1. We have "bridal," *i.e.* bride-ale, still in use.

Happy Rusticks! best content
With the cheapest merriment;
And possesse no other feare
Than to want the wake next yeare."

The same poet also very beautifully alludes to these pleasures of "The Country Life."

"For sports, for pageantrie, and plays,
Thou hast thy eves and holydayes;
On which the young men and maids meet,
To exercise their dancing feet;
Tripping the comely country round,
With daffadils and dasies crown'd.
Thy wakes, thy quintels, here thou hast,
Thy May-poles too with garlands grac't,
Thy morris-dance, thy Whitsun-ale,
Thy sheering-feast which never faile;
Thy harvest-home, thy wassaile bowle,
That's tost up after Fox-i' th'-hole;
Thy mummeries, thy twelfe-tide kings
And queenes, thy Christmas revellings;
Thy nut-brown mirth, thy russet wit,
And no man payes too deare for it."

Perambulations. Perambulation of the parish was frequently performed, and expenses thereby incurred, chiefly in the way of refreshments. Before maps so clearly showed the boundaries of parishes as they do at the present day, this was a very necessary duty. In "beating the bounds," the parishioners were entitled to go through and over every man's house or land and to remove anything that obstructed the passage; but care should be taken that the exact boundary is gone over, though ladders or any other appliances be necessary for the purpose. It is not pleasant either to have to remove window sashes or to pass through such openings, when the owners have built without a due regard to parish bounds; but such things have been done. I have heard of persons who remember seeing ladders being placed at Rock House, for instance, to define and show the boundary between North Curry and Curry Mallett at this point. Marks are frequently placed at certain places. Trees were the most ancient manner of defining boundaries, and were formerly held sacred. Stones, however, were the

most durable means of marking employed. In going the perambulation it was customary to take a number of inhabitants of all ages, so as to keep alive a tradition clear and well defined. Men and boys should take part in the ceremony; the older who knew the bounds thoroughly, and the younger to be shown by various ways—objects calculated to fix the boundary in their memory.

Woollen Manufacture. For the encouragement of the woollen manufacture very strict laws were in operation, dating from the time of Edward IV, 1442. Amongst them was the act of 30 Car. 2, c. 3, enacting that "no corpse of any person (except those that die of the plague), shall be buried in any shirt, shift, sheet, or shroud, or anything whatever made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, gold or silver, or any stuff or thing other than what is made of sheep's wool only, or to be put into any coffin lined or faced with any sort of cloth or stuff, or any other thing whatever that is made of any material but sheep's wool only." And the ministers were to keep an exact account and a register book, and make a true entry therein of all persons buried.

"Within eight days after the interment, some relative shall cause an affidavit to be made under the hands and seals of two creditable witnesses setting forth as above, and shall bring the same and make oath before a justice of the peace, etc., and shall bring the same so signed to the minister, who shall enter the same in his register."[1]

If these conditions were not complied with, then the goods and chattels of the deceased were liable to forfeiture of £5, to be levied by distress by the churchwardens and overseers, to whom the minister was to give notice of default. Half the penalty of £5 was given to the poor, and the remainder, with all costs incurred before the justices, went to the informer. This act was passed in 1679, and repealed in 1814.

The following is the form of affidavit which had to be taken before a justice.

1. *Burn's* Justice of the Peace.

"Be it remembered that on the
Somerset } Day of and
To Wit. } being two credible persons do make oath
that the Body of
late of the Parish of in the
County aforesaid, deceased was interred in the Common Burial Ground adjoining, and belonging to the Parish Church of in the
County aforesaid the Day of this Month
of and that the said
was not put in wrapt, or wound up or buried in any Shirt, Shift, Sheet, or Shroud, made or mingled with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Gold or Silver, or any other than what is made of Sheep's Wool only, or in any Coffin, lined or faced with any Cloth Stuff or any other thing whatsoever made or mingled with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold or Silver, or any other material but Sheeps wool only.
Sworn before me"

In the West Hatch Parish records there will be found "1727 Dec. 22nd. Then gave the poore for burying Mrs. Christian Sealy in Lininge the sum of £2 10/ in presents of, etc."

And there is also at West Hatch a printed form of such affidavit preserved among the parish papers.

The Church and its Ministers. In the remarks made in reference to the various parish officers and their duties, "The Parish" has been treated as a purely *secular* institution. As such, the minister is not a part of it. He is not a *parish officer*. But a few remarks on the duties and position of the minister, and on the nature of the church establishment, may be appropriate.

It was the original intention of the endowments of the church, that there should be no place in which there was not someone present to remind men continually that man has other calls on life than what are selfish only. It is stated on the statute rolls in 25 Edw. III, A.D. 1350, "the holy church of England was founded to inform [the founders] and the people of the law of God, *and to make hospitalities, alms, and*

other works of charity; and certain possessions which do extend to a great value, were assigned by the said founders to the prelates and other people of the Holy Church of the said Realm *to sustain the same charge.*" There are also much earlier records to the same effect. The main part of the endowments being provided by such founders, they were therefore considered to be the proper persons to be entrusted with the choice of the minister: not because the parishioners are or have been ever held to be unworthy of the trust. This patronage of the founders of churches, instituted as early as A.D. 669, is therefore of great antiquity. The patron has no power of dictation or interference when his act of presentation is over.

The history of the Church of England is continuous almost from the earliest date of the introduction of Christianity into Britain about A.D. 64, some say by Joseph of Arimathea, when he came to Glastonbury and founded a church there; others say by James the son of Zebedee, or Simon Zelotes, whilst others have assigned the honour to St. Peter or St. Paul. As early as A.D. 314 we have mention of three bishops of the British church, who took part in a council at this period. The original church, however, became somewhat dormant during the time of the Saxons, but was not quite extinguished at the time of the arrival of Augustine, A.D. 597, when king Ethelbert became a convert, together with ten thousand of his principal subjects. It is supposed that there were seven bishoprics existing at the time of Augustine's landing. These had chiefly taken refuge in Wales from persecution. Even at this early period it was arranged how the endowments should be devoted, viz.: one fourth to the bishop and his family, one fourth to the clergy, one fourth to the poor, and one fourth to the repair of churches. St. Augustine was made the first archbishop of Canterbury, A.D. 601, and died A.D. 604. Theodore was appointed A.D. 669, and although attempts were made at this early period to assert the authority of Rome, these were rejected. At this period the endowment of parish churches was promoted by giving the right of patronage to their

founders ; church rates were enforced, and it is supposed the payment of tithes was established. They had before this been a religious obligation and voluntary.

When king Alfred came to the throne, A.D. 871, he found the church and the country in a most lamentable condition, from the barbarous treatment at the hands of the Danes ; and on their overthrow, he compelled them "to submit to his terms, which were, they might settle in England if they embraced Christianity and paid tithe, Rome scot, light scot (church scot), plough alms (a kind of rent charge), and all other dues of the church as paid by his own people."[1] Although king Alfred did much for the church, he encouraged some of the superstitious practices of the papacy, particularly *image worship*. Amongst other acts, he established a monastery at Athelney. Important changes now came about in church matters through the introduction of the Benedictine orders and monasteries throughout the kingdom, which led to a struggle between the secular clergy and the monasteries, which ended only at the Reformation.

When William the Conqueror came to the throne in 1066, he found the Church of England in full operation. It embraced the greater number of parishes now existing, and comprised two archbishoprics and thirteen bishoprics. It rejected, however, the papal supremacy, although already corrupted by some of its doctrines.

From this short and imperfect sketch it will be seen that the Church of England is not an act of parliament church. Although there are numerous acts of parliament now existing relating to the church, as also relating to those who call themselves nonconformists, parliament did not exist at the time of its foundation. It was not until the reign of Henry III, A.D. 1265, that the house of commons became a portion of the legislative body of the kingdom. It may also be safely said that the Church of England existed before the State of England.

1. Pinnock's *Analysis*.

Further, it can never be truly said that churches were built and the clergy maintained out of the rates and taxes. It has, however, been sometimes stated that the Church of England is a state paid church. On the contrary, *not one penny* comes towards her support from the annual taxes of the country. Her income is derived from her own anciently acquired property, and consists of *voluntary gifts*, in the shape of tithes and endowments in lands and moneys, to which her pious and faithful members have continued to add, even up to the present day, in the same manner as numerous bequests have been made to nonconformists. Even the tithes were originally gifts of the founders, and therefore are now charges on the land; and now all land is bought and sold and inherited subject to their payment.

In the parson is vested the freehold of the parsonage house, the glebe, the tithes, and all other dues, *for life*. There is in almost every benefice a residence as a vicarage or parsonage house, according as the living is a vicarage or rectory, to which is usually attached a portion of land called the glebe. The tithes, which are sanctioned by scripture, and were formerly taken in kind, have been commuted into a tithe rent charge, which may be regarded as representative of, and the equivalent for, the tithe. These were commuted by the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, and are now regulated annually, according to the average price of corn. As has been already stated, tithes were *established* in A.D. 669, having been introduced into this country about the fourth century, when they had a religious obligation and were voluntary. Their payment was one of the conditions in the conclusion of peace with the Danes, A.D. 871, by king Alfred. During the reign of Ethelred, A.D. 1008, a council was held at Ensham, in Oxfordshire, which gives an account of the tithes as well as other church dues at that period. "Tithe of produce was to be paid at Allhallows (All Saints Day, 1st Nov.), tithe of young at Whitsuntide, Rome Scot at St. Peter's mass (Midsummer Day), Soul Scot when a grave was opened (this appears to be the origin of burial fees), Light

Scot, three times a year, Plough Alms, a fortnight after Easter."[1]

Tithes are of two kinds, "great" and "small." The first are usually the property of the rector or "lay-impropriator," and are chiefly those accruing on corn, hay, and wood. The small tithes usually belong to the vicar, and will be seen from the tithe modus relating to North Curry, given at page 118, to consist of "things immediately nourished by the ground, as colts, calves, lambs, chickens, milk, cheese, and eggs." There are also other dues to which both legally and customarily the parson is entitled, now called "surplice fees," very similar to those named in the time of king Ethelred, being fees payable on burials, marriages, and the like. No *fees are allowable for any sacrament.* Easter offerings and mortuaries are of great antiquity, and were called in the old days, *oblations.* Easter offerings are not now general in parishes, and have ceased to be paid in North Curry; but they are mentioned in the tithe modus, and were usually two pence per head for all parishioners of the age of sixteen and upwards. With regard to burial fees, formerly called "mortuaries," or in still older time, "soul scot," these were sums paid to the clergy as a kind of heriot. Just as a lord on the death of a life claimed the best beast or other goods, so the clergy claimed the second best chattel; and it was anciently usual to bring the mortuary to church along with the corpse when it came to be buried. A variety of customs have existed in different parishes with regard to mortuaries (these being due by custom only), and they frequently gave rise to exactions. In many old parish registers of burials occurs the word "mort," and a sum is paid which varies in different entries. By a statute, 21 Henry VIII, it was attempted to reduce them to some kind of certainty. By that statute it was enacted: "that all 'mortuaries' or 'corse presents' to parsons (the latter term showing them to be voluntary donations) should be taken in the following manner, viz.: for every person dying therein who did not leave

1. Pinnock's *Analysis.*

goods to the value of ten marks, nothing; to every person leaving ten marks and under thirty pounds, 3*s.* 4*d.*; above thirty pounds and under forty, 6*s.* 8*d.*; if above fifty pounds of what value soever, 10*s.*, and no more, and upon this statute stands the law of mortuaries to this day."[1]

If proof is needed of the continuity of the church, it may be found in the records of our own parish. On page 103 will be found a succession of vicars of North Curry in unbroken sequence from A.D. 1234, and there is no doubt that even long before that date there was a church here and a recognised minister, doing the self-same work as our pastor is doing to-day. The church of England is virtually the same in doctrine and discipline and the means of emolument as it was in the time of king Alfred, in A.D. 883, and even long before.

The Reformation was simply a return to the primitive state of the church by the rejection of modern errors introduced by Rome.

It has already been stated that the emoluments of the church were originally intended for three purposes, viz.: the relief of the poor, the repair of the church, and the maintenance of the minister. It behoves those who boast themselves of the "glorious" fruits of the Reformation, and the great spirit of Protestantism, to note also that this was the very time when most of the alienation of church property, and most of the encroachments and usurpations took place in England.

Some of the endowments were set apart for purely ecclesiastical purposes; but much more was given to irresponsible appropriators. Some were given into the hands of the king by parliament, under delusive and unredeemed pledges, and were given again by him (Henry VIII) to favoured laymen. The poor were thus robbed of their rights, and were thrown upon society. Vagrancy became a reasonable excuse and became general, Thenceforth a burden was cast upon the country. Pauperism was recognized, and by the 39 Elizabeth our modern poor law had its origin. Although that was the effect at that period,

1. Judge Stephen's *Commentaries of the Law of England.*

however, the amount which was then alienated would have been totally inadequate for such relief in these days. The amount required for that purpose being now about six times greater than the whole income of the church. The annual amount of the poor rate is about £13,000,000, the parochial clergy only receiving £2,412,000: nearly £2,000,000 having been alienated from the church for either collegiate purposes or laymen. Instead of the second object, that of the repair of the fabric of the church, being fulfilled, that duty devolved on the parishioners, and church rates, in the modern sense, thus had their origin. The chancel is now commonly repaired by the rector or lay impropriator.

Churchwardens before the Reformation were always elected by the parishioners. The minister had no voice whatever in their election by the common law, but custom and usage has now sanctioned his nomination of one; and it was the law that no churchwarden should hold office for more than one year.[1]

The minister had no power to call vestries or to take the chair at vestry meetings: courtesy and custom alone have sanctioned it.

It is an unspeakable benefit that there should be one church (or more) now established in almost every parish of the kingdom, and that to it should be attached a minister or ministers, who are in the majority of cases devoted to their work, and are conscientious and educated gentlemen. Their duties consist in the *cure of souls*, in the regular celebration of divine service, in teaching and instructing the people in the parish, and in the administration of the sacraments; and the ancient law is, *that he shall fulfil no secular functions.*

1. See page 107.

Appendix.

The following memoranda have been copied from papers in the Serel collection, now belonging to the Somerset Archæological Society. My attention was called to them by Mr. C. Tite, of Taunton, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Society.

"There is a Hallimot Court belonging to the s^{d} Mannor kept at the Court house or Mannor House afores^{d} three times p^{r} annum.

The tenants of y^{e} s^{d} Mannor are to perform suit and service to the Lords at the Court aforesaid.

That the tenants of this Manor both free and customary have as an appurtenance to their respective hold the benefit of common of pasturing all sorts of cattle (sans number) in the Moores called West-Sedge-Moore, Great Curry Moore, Little Curry Moore, West Moore and Men-Moore and all other wasts within the said Mannor.

That the Tenants of this Mannor both free and customary have time out of mind held their land discharg'd from payment of any tythe-hay-paying to the Dean and Chapter (who are Lords of the s^{d} Mannor and also Impropriators of the Parsonage there) in the rent of their several holds a small rent w^{ch} in continuance of time is received to be part of the rent of their several Tenements.

That the custom of the said Mannor is to grant three lives in one copy, and the Lords hath power to grant as many copies in reversion as he pleasith.

That there are within the Mannor three sorts of holdings by copy of Court Roll, viz. one Customary or Old Auster. 2^{d} By stinted hold or newnaham and 3^{dly} Overland and each of these hath a several custom belonging to it.

Imprimis for the Old Auster or customary hold. The custom is that the Widow of the Tennant dying seis'd that hold all the customary land that the said husband died seis'd of during her widowhood and this hold pays for an Herriot the best goods and hath benefit of commons of pasture in all the moores and commons belonging to the said Mannor (sans number) and hath a feast every year provided by ye Reeve.

The newnaham or stinted hold enjoy no Widows Estate, pay a stinted Herriot and enjoy the benefit of a stinted common as by their copies is express'd and have no feast.

The Overland enjoy no widows estate nor benefit of commons nor pay any Herriot and have no feast."

Court set order Proclamation O yes thrice. | Modus tenendi Cur Leet or Baron. All manner of persons that (owe suit and service to this Court or) were summoned to appear here this day draw near and give your attendance and answer every man to his name and save your Amercements.

Call over the Lectors. Name a foreman.

His Oath. omitted in ye Leet. | You shal well and truly enquire and true presentment make of all such matters and things as shall be given you in charge; (the Kings Counsel) your companions Counsel and your own you shal keep secret undisclos'd (you shal present no one for envy, hatred or malice nor spare any man for fear, favour or affection, or any hope of reward) but (according to the best of your knowledge and the information you shal receive) you shal present the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but ye truth so help you God.

swear the rest four at a time. | The same oath your Foreman hath taken you and every one of you shal observe and keep, so help you God.

You Gentlemen that are Impanell'd and sworn hearken to yr charge and all others keep silence while it is given.

Charge.

Gentlemen of ye Jury or Homage.

The Lords of this Mannor having appointed me to hold their Courts here, my business is to inform you that to this Manner are appendant two Courts, the one called a Leet or view of Frank-pledge, which is to enquire and determine matters of Controversy between the King and the subject; the other is called a Court Baron wherein matters between the Lords and their Tenants are to be enquird into and adjusted. And that you may the better apprehend what I shal give you in charge I shal distinctly show you what is enquirable into and presentable in each of these Courts.

In the Court Leet.

First you are to enquire who they are that owe suit and service to this Court; and whether they be present to perform or no: If any are absent upon lawfull occasion you have power to amerce them as you think fit.

Whether ye last presentments obeyed. | You are next to enquire what persons were presented at the last Court for any offence whether the same was reform'd within the time limited in the presentment, that the Penalty may, either be set aside or levy'd for the Lords use.

Nuisances. You are to enquire of and present all nuisances,

those things which annoy and disturb the publick; Communia nusamenta.

First. As to nuisances in the High-Ways.

If any encroach upon ye Kings Highway or enclose any part of it by Hedging, ditching or otherwise, this is a nuisance.

If any obstruct the Highway by laying any thing in it as dunghills or the like, this is a nuisance.

If any do not scour their ditches or keep their trees low next the Highway, this impairs it and is by you inquirable etc.

If any divert an ancient way or water course out of its channel.

If any lay any filth in the way by wch the air is corrupted.

If any corrupt any common stream of water by laying hemp in it or ye like.

If any do not keep good and sufficient fence against the Common or Common Highway whereby trespass may be the more easily committed by his neighbours cattle who therefore impounds them, this occasions suits and controversies and tends to ye breach of the peace and is by you to be enquir'd into and presented.

Eve-droppers. You are to enquire of Eve-droppers, such as listen under walls and windows to hear tales and report them again; this tends to break ye peace and it being so scandalous a thing ought strictly to be enquir'd into.

Barretors. You are to enquire and present all Common Barretors, scolds and other breakers of ye peace and to punish offenders accordingly as also all riots, routs and unlawfull assemblies.

Unlicensed Ale Houses.	You are further to enquire of all unlecens'd Ale houses and to present the offenders; and as for those who have licenses if they keep good order in their houses, otherwise they are also to be presented and punished.
Gaming houses.	You are to enquire of all gaming houses, houses of bawdry and other such lewd and disorderly places.

Bakers, etc. You are further to enquire of all Bakers Butchers and others that they sell good and wholesome provision fit for mans body; if any offend herein they are to be presented and punished.

Pound breach. You are also to enquire of all pound breach rescous. If any cattle be put in the Lords pound and taken out by force, otherwise then by due course law this is call'd Pound-breach and by you is enquirable.

Rescous. Also if any rescue any cattle or other things from ye custody of the Sheriff or any of his Officers this is a rescous and by you enquirable.

Waifs and Estrays. And here you are also to enquire of Waifs and Estrays.

Game. Also if any not being qualify'd according to law keep any Engine to destroy the game you are to enquire into and present it.

Constables, etc. You are also to enquire of your Constables and all other publick officers within the precinct of this Leet that they have duly executed their respective Office; if any have been remiss herein, y^e^ are to present y^e^ offenders.

Stocks. You shal also enquire if there be in every Tything a pair of good and sufficient Stocks according to y^e^ statute for y^e^ due punishment of idle persons.

I shal not tire you Gentlemen with more particulars but only give you this in general, that whatever you of your own knowledge know to be presentable, that you make due presentment thereof. And also the names of such persons as you chuse for officers for the ensuing year.

When you have agreed I shall be ready to take y^r^ presentments.

North Curry Reeve to be presented at y^e^ Midsummer Court and sworn at Michaelmas. Constable of the Liberty presented and sworn at Michaelmas.

Charge in a Court Baron.

Gentlemen of the Homage.

First. You are to enquire of all persons that owe suit to this Court and make default and you ought to present their names, for all persons who hold of y^e^ Lords by suit of Court shall attend here if they are able or be amerced.

Alienations | You are further to enquire of all Alienations whether by death or by surrender.

By Death. | If any tenant is dead since y^e^ last Court or before and his death not presented you ought to enquire what lands he held of this mannor and how the same were holden, what advantage the Lords have by his death, and who is his next Heir.

By surrender. | Also if any Copyholder of this Mannor hath surrender'd any of his Copyhold lands to the use of any other person by the hands of any other Copyhold Tenants, every such surrender whether absolute or conditional must be presented at the Court otherwise they who have taken such surrender forfeit their own Copyhold.

Lands or Service concealed etc. | You are also to enquire if any of the Lord's lands, customs, services or y^e^ like be concealed or withheld without their consent, what they are, what persons, and how long they have withheld them.

Also if any Incroachment be made upon the Lords land or commons without licence from the Lords.

Incroachments Trespass. | You are also to enquire of any trespass made by any Tenant upon y^e^ Lords demeasnes.

Also if any Tenant hath aliened his land without notice given to the Lords and when, and to whom and what is due to the Lords thereby; for the Lords must know who is their Tenant; that they may know of whom to expect their service.

Who is Tenant.

You are also to enquire whether any Tenant hath committed any forfeiture [Freeholders may forfeit by committing felony, in which case after the King hath his year and day the Lord is to have ye land.] Also if a freeholder alien his land in Mortmain, that is, to any corporation where there is a succession (vizt to them and their successors, without licence from ye King and the Lord), this is likewise a forfeiture].

Forfeiture of Freehold.

As to Copy holde Tenants they may forfeit by committing felony, doing wast, letting houses fall, or be very ruinous for want of repair; or if a person have two Copyholds and impairs one to mend the other by cutting down or marring timber contrary to ye custom; by passing their land by deed and not by surrender as it ought to be; by letting without license for a longer time than the Custom allows; by not paying his rent, or performing his services, as Suit of Court and ye like especially if he deny and refuse it. If any rescous or Pound breach be made of a distress taken by the Lords or their Bailiff within ye mannor for any rent or service due to ye Lords; if any remove any ancient bounds between the Lords and their Tenants, or one Lord and another, or between Tenant and Tenant and several other ways they may forfeit their Copyholds.

Forfeiture of Copyhold.

I shal in the next place put you in mind of some things which concern the benefits of the Tenants and which you are to enquire into, vizt You are to enquire if any take common that have no right to it, or having Common keep more than their Common number or quantity of land, or put in cattle not commonable; or inclose, dig, build upon, or otherwise abuse and oppress the Common (without licence) or if any Tenant inclose the land which ought to be in Common.

Lastly you are to enquire of all other things (tho' not mentioned by me) which you know to belong to your charge and that ought to be inquir'd into. This Gentlemen is all I shal say at present; so you may go together and consider your Charge. And when you are agreed in your presentments I shal be ready to take them.

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